VOL. 7
STORY AND ART BY
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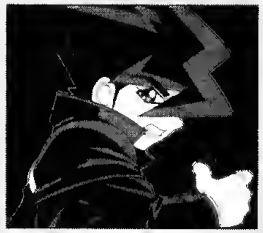
Steam-Punk Mysteries

The place is Steam City, a mixture of London and Tokyo's Asakusa district, and boy detective Narutaki is gaining quite a reputation as he solves the myriad of mysteries that come to his door.

In his first case, the evil Phantom Knight tricks beautiful nurse Ling Ling and her megamaton robot Goriki into luring Narutaki into a trap. After the defeat of the Phantom Knight, Ling Ling and Goriki ask to join Narutaki and his butler Kawakubo in the Narutaki Detective Agency, and together they form the Steam Detectives.

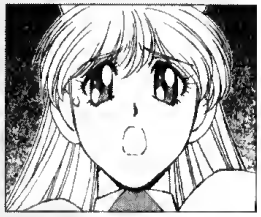
But their work is just beginning and the agency finds itself opposed to a dizzying array of villains including not only Phantom Knight but Ling Ling's evil opposite Lang Lang abetted by the boy criminal Le Bread; the literary-villain-come-to-life Steam King; vigilante killer Don Death; and the ingenious cat burglar the Red Scorpion.

Recently Steam City's Opera Plaza has been the scene of some horrifying crimes! The best singers in the land, the Angels of Music, have been kidnapped one-by-one, and by the time they turn up again, their voice boxes have been ruined—they can never sing again. It seems obvious that the kidnapper is the boy criminal Le Bread, but he is not the type to silence forever the beautiful voices of the Angels. Narutaki is certain that someone else is behind the crimes, but he needs proof. And with the last Angel's debut at the Opera Plaza coming up soon, Narutaki is running out of time!



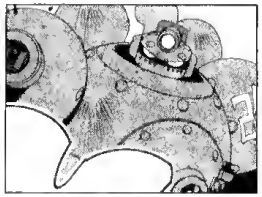
Narutaki

Son of the greatest detective in the history of Steam City, the murder of his parents has left him with only his butler's help in his quest to follow in his father's footsteps.



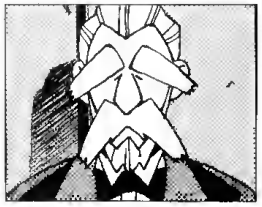
Ling Ling

It is known that the father of the beautiful nurse Ling Ling is the great scientist Dr. Hsu, and Lang Lang is her sister, but Ling Ling's past is still a mystery.



Goriki

A steam-powered megamaton robot who is fiercely loyal to Ling Ling. Somewhere inside its body is the brain of Dr. Hsu.



Kawakubo

Narutaki's loyal butler and a man of many resources.

CASE TWENTY-ONE, PART 5 **BATTLE AT THE OPERA PLAZA!**

K-- KAWA-KUBO ...
GORIKI ...
KAWA-KUBO!! GORIKI !!
NARU-TAKI !!
I'LL CALL RIGHT AWAY !
KYOKO!! THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPART-MENT!

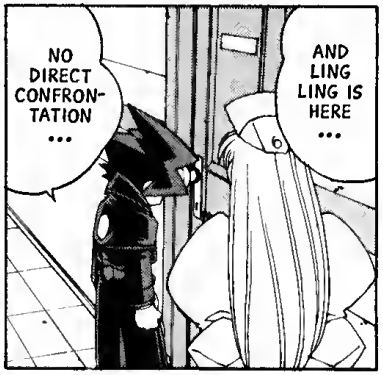
DO NOT DISTURB
.....
KAWA-KUBO ...
NARU-TAKI.
LING LING, HOW IS GORIKI ?

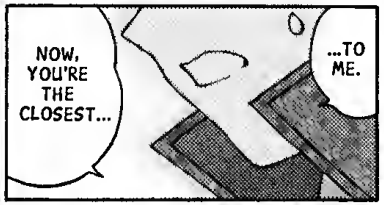
DOCTOR MAYERD SAYS THE REPAIRS WILL TAKE A COUPLE OF DAYS.
WHAT ABOUT KAWA-KUBO ?
FORTUNATELY, HE WAS IN THE BASEMENT, AND GORIKI PROTECTED HIM. SO IT ISN'T FATAL...
BUT ...
POOR KAWA-KUBO ...
SOME-ONE ...

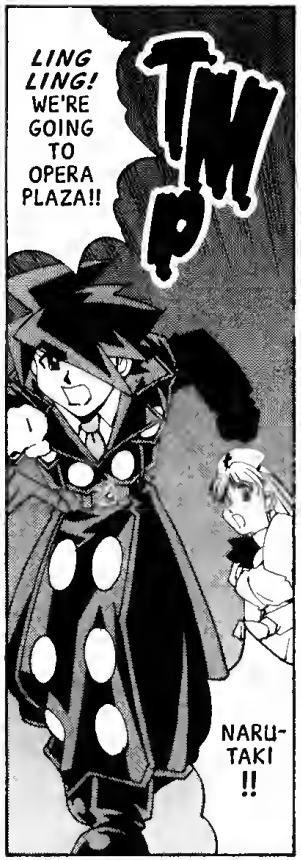
...IS PRO-VOKING ME !!
IF THEY WANT TO FIGHT ME, THEY SHOULD CONFRONT ME DIRECTLY!!

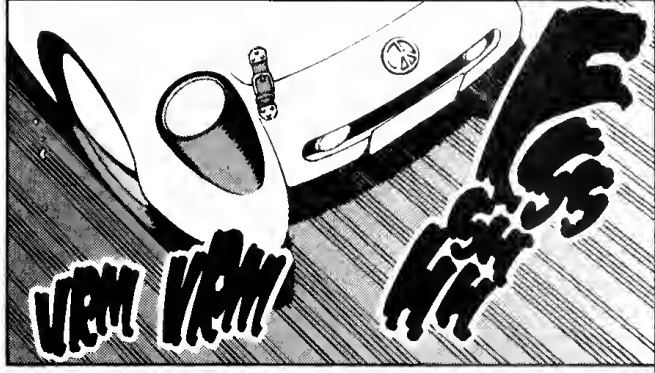
WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD DO THIS!?
.....

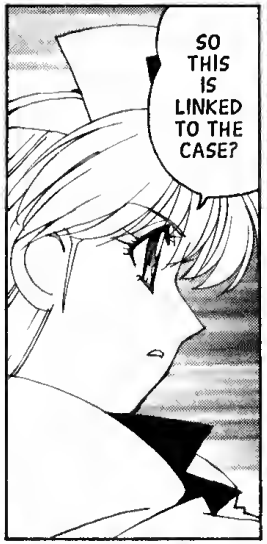
WHO !?
!

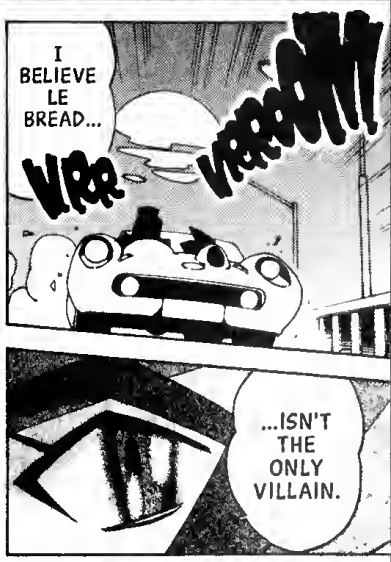

NO DIRECT CONFRON-TATION ...
AND LING LING IS HERE ...


NOW, YOU'RE THE CLOSEST...
...TO ME.


LING LING! WE'RE GOING TO OPERA PLAZA!!
NARU-TAKI !!


VROM VROM!


SO THIS IS LINKED TO THE CASE?


I BELIEVE LE BREAD...
VRR-
VRROOM!!
...ISN'T THE ONLY VILLAIN.

WHH
OOOO
OOOO

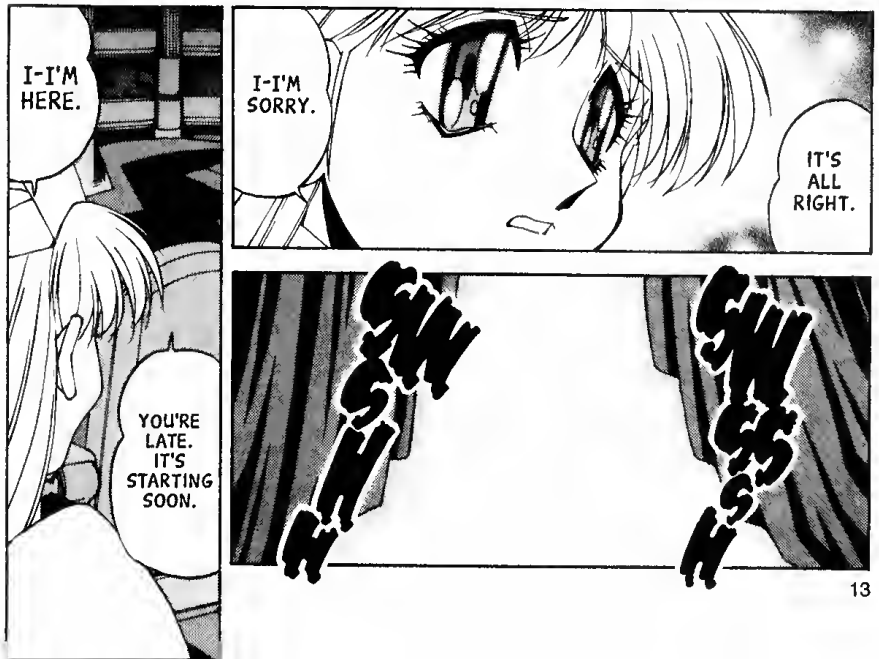
SHR EE
HEY, IT'S NARU-TAKI.
HEY! LOOK!
NARU-TAKI !
WE HEAR LE BREAD WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING OF YOUR OFFICE!
PSH
SO YOU'LL BE FIGHTING THE OPERA PLAZA KIDNAPPER !?
CARE TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS ?
NARU-TAKI !
ANY NEW LEADS ?
NARU-TAKI !
YES, SIR.
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU WEREN'T INJURED.
THE SHOW IS SOLD OUT! EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN YOU AND LE BREAD.
.....

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORM-ANCE IS A SUCCESS !
HA HA HA
.....
DO YOU HAVE TO GO...
...NARU TAKI !?
I MUST DISCOVER THE TRUTH DURING THE OPERA.
YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND, LING LING.
I CAN'T RUN AWAY.
LE BREAD ONLY COMES FOR THE FIRST PERFORM-ANCE.
SO IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TONIGHT.
SOME-ONE IS WAITING FOR ME IN THERE...
...AND UNTIL I ENTER, THIS CASE CAN NEVER SEE ITS CONCLU-SION.

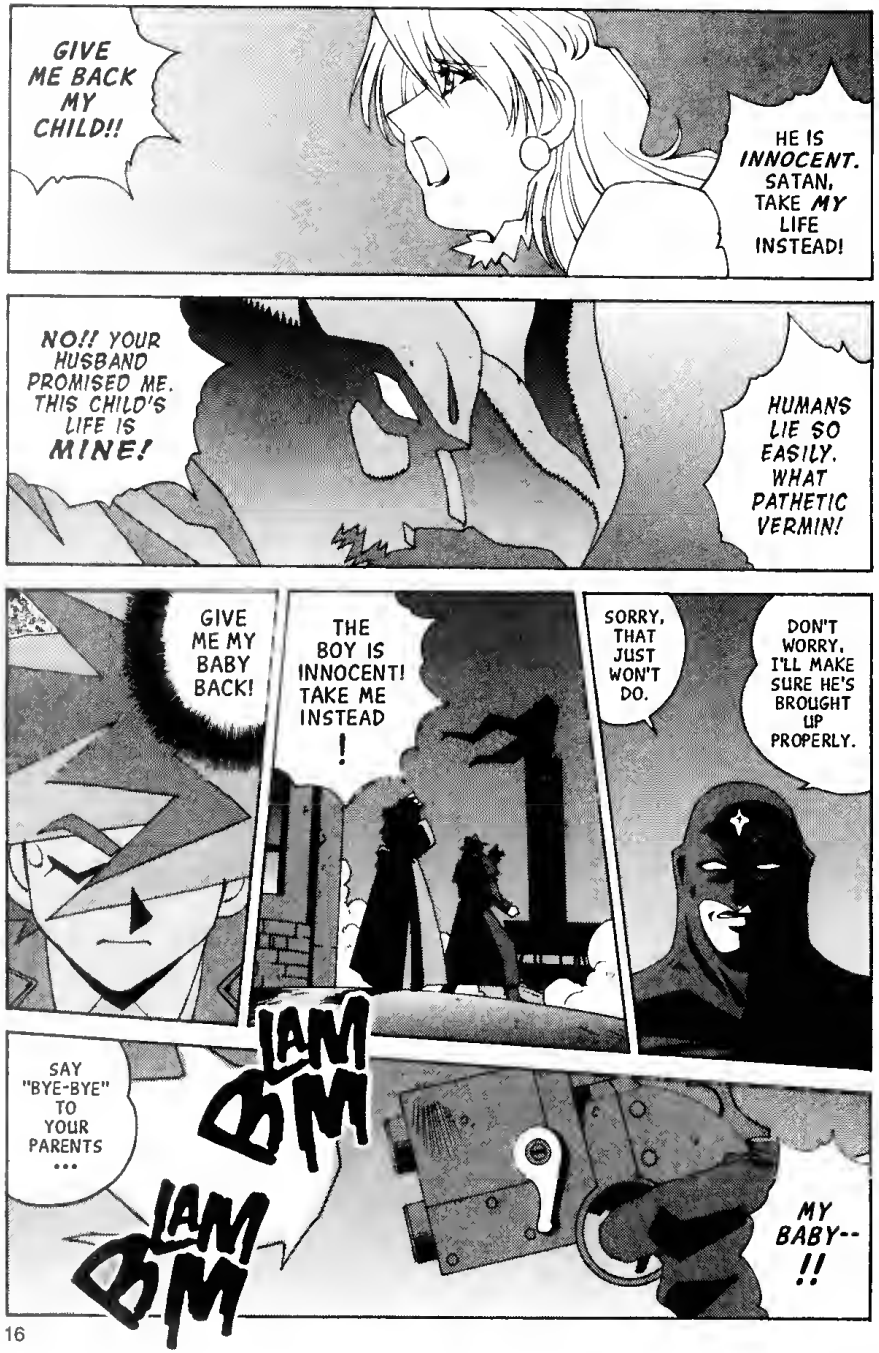
...INSIDE OPERA PLAZA!
I'LL UNCOVER THE TRUE VILLAIN OF THESE CRIMES!
I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.
NARU-TAKI...

MR MR
MR MR
MR MR

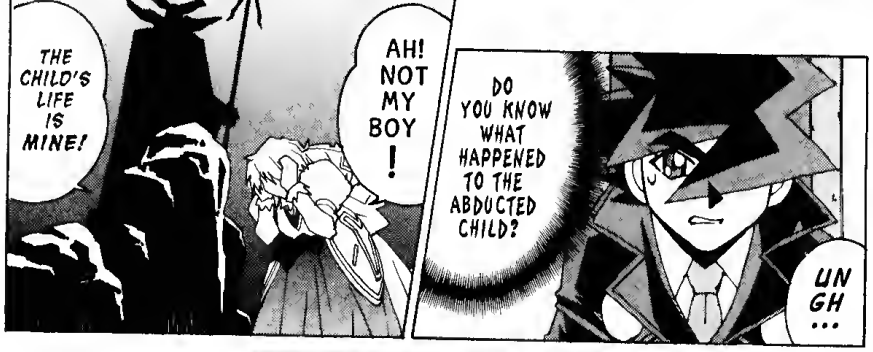
THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND, NARUTAKI.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
I WILL CATCH THE CULPRIT.
SHAK
I THINK HE WANTS ME TO.


I-I'M HERE.
YOU'RE LATE. IT'S STARTING SOON.
I-I'M SORRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SHISHISH
SHISHISH

THIS IS...
...THAT DREAM.
THAT DREAM I HAD...
YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE!
NOW, YOU SHALL DIE!!
.....
.....
.....
THE FINAL ACT.
YES.
FOO SHH

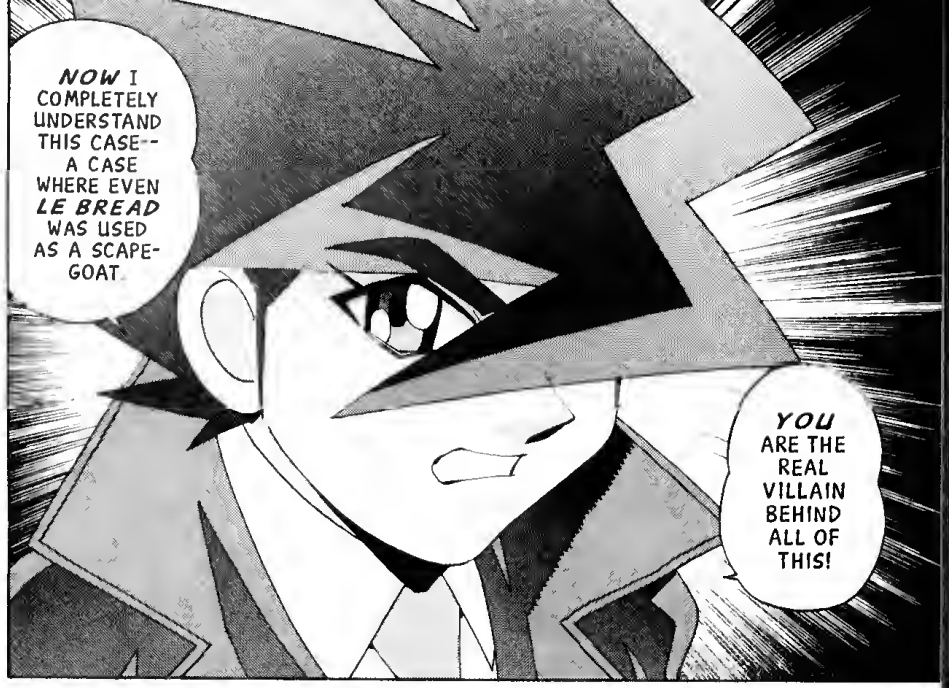

GIVE ME BACK MY CHILD!!
HE IS INNOCENT. SATAN, TAKE MY LIFE INSTEAD!
NO!! YOUR HUSBAND PROMISED ME. THIS CHILD'S LIFE IS MINE!
HUMANS LIE SO EASILY. WHAT PATHETIC VERMIN!
GIVE ME MY BABY BACK!
THE BOY IS INNOCENT! TAKE ME INSTEAD!
SORRY, THAT JUST WON'T DO.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE HE'S BROUGHT UP PROPERLY.
SAY "BYE-BYE" TO YOUR PARENTS...
LAM BAM
LAM BAM
MY BABY--!!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS SCENE, NARUTAKI!?
THANKS TO YOUR FOOLISH FATHER, YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY GOES TO HELL!
WHAT!?!
WHO'S THERE!?
ESH
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, NARUTAKI? WHY DID YOU GET UP SO SUDDENLY?
UH... I HEARD SOME-ONE...
THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT US. THE CLIMAX IS COMING.
SIT DOWN AND WATCH.
Y-YES, OF COURSE.


THE CHILD'S LIFE IS MINE!
AH! NOT MY BOY!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ABDUCTED CHILD?
UNGH...

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE...
YOU LOOK PALE, NARUTAKI.
IT'S NOTHING.
YOUR FATHER COMMITTED A HEINOUS CRIME, SO SATAN IS COMING AFTER YOU!
MY SON! MY LITTLE BOY...

NOW I SEE.
NARUTAKI, YOU'RE BEING VERY STRANGE!
NO, I'M NOT. YOU CAN RELAX, MR. YOHANE.
THIS PERFORMANCE IS FOR MY SAKE.
ESH


NOW I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THIS CASE-- A CASE WHERE EVEN LE BREAD WAS USED AS A SCAPEGOAT.
YOU ARE THE REAL VILLAIN BEHIND ALL OF THIS!

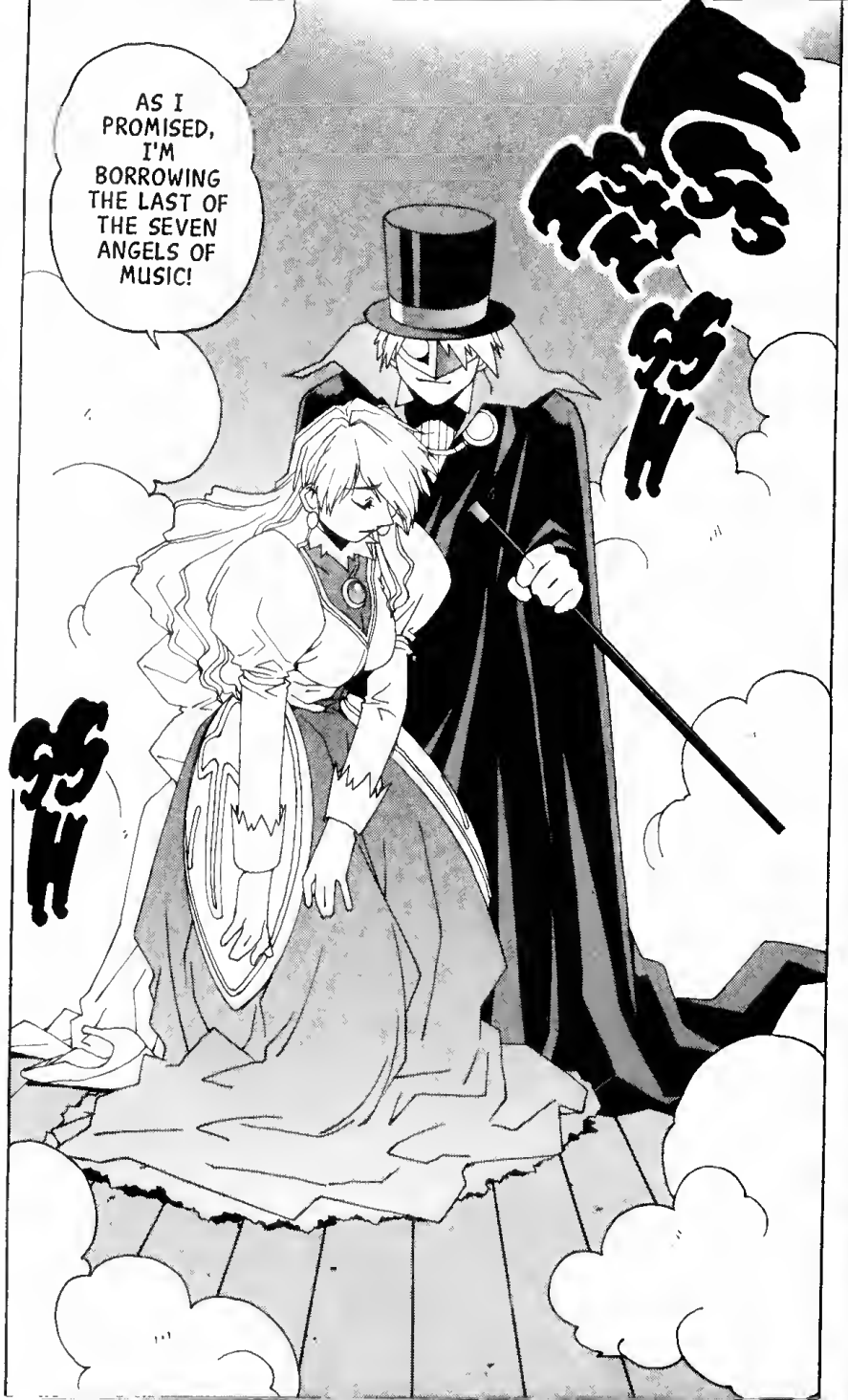
YOU'RE THE ONE HURTING MY DEAREST FRIENDS!!
M-ME? THE CULPRIT??
NARUTAKI! HOW CAN YOU ACCUSE MR. YOHANE!?

IT ALL BEGAN TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN LE BREAD STARTED KIDNAPPING THE ANGELS OF MUSIC.
THAT PROMPTED YOU TO COMMIT THE CRIME YOU HAD BEEN PLANNING, PROVIDING YOU WITH THE CHANCE TO EXPOSE ME TO THIS PERFORMANCE!
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
THIS VALVALLA LEAF WAS INSIDE YOUR CAR.
BUT IT ONLY GROWS ON TROPICAL ISLANDS.
YOU PARALYZED THE VOCAL CORDS OF THE ANGELS OF MUSIC USING AN EXTRACT FROM THIS LEAF.
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE?
THAT'S ABSURD!
I'M BEING SET UP!
I'M A SCAPEGOAT!!
LE BREAD'S DESTROYING THEIR VOICES!
YOU THINK SO?

THAT'S WHERE YOU WENT WRONG. LE BREAD MAY BE A THIEF, BUT HE'S STILL A GENTLEMAN.
KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT LE BREAD, YOU'D BE UNAWARE OF THAT.
.....
HE WOULD NEVER USE A DRUG TO DESTROY A WOMAN'S VOICE!
YOU STARTED WEARING GLOVES AFTER MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE GHOST.
!
DOAMM
THERE YOU ARE!!
FWISH
ZAK
VIP
ARR RRG GGH!
MY NEEDLE GUN WOUNDED THE GHOST.
YOUR GLOVES COVER THAT WOUND.
ZAK

NO!
I CHECKED THE BLOOD.
B CEYLINE IS RARE.
ONLY ONE IN A MILLION HAVE THE CEYLINE ANTIGEN.
JUST AS *YOUR* BLOOD DOES.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ?
CARE TO TAKE A TEST ?
STOP IT, NARU-TAKI !!
MR. YOHANE ISN'T GUILTY !
PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
I AM *NOT* THE CULPRIT!

BOOM
KRRSH
AIEEEEEEE
NARU-TAKI, WATCHING FROM THE *AUDIENCE* TONIGHT ?
FSSSHH
FSSSHH
YOU'RE USUALLY AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
THERE!!
HAHAHAHA
!!



CASE TWENTY-ONE, PART 6

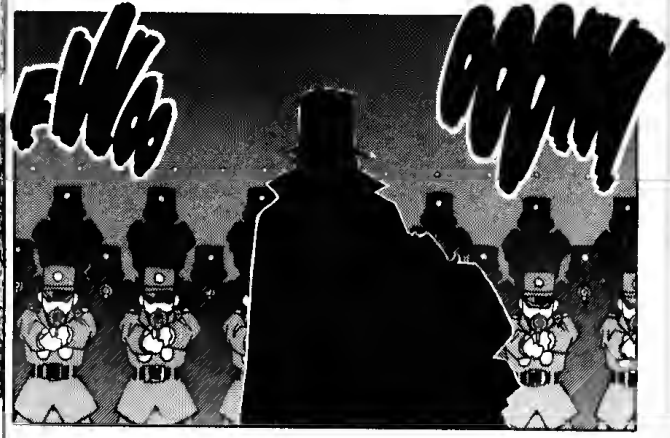
THE RETURN OF SATAN

LE BREAD !!

TUMP

YOU WON'T GET MS. MITSU-BOSHI !
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE !!

HA HA HAAA! PLAN ON STOPPING ME ALONE?
IMPOS-SIBLE.


FWOO
GOOM!

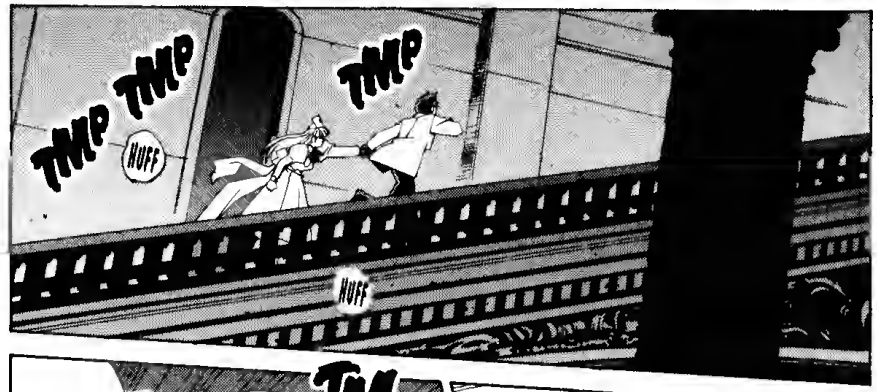
I SEE. AN ENTIRE AUDIENCE OF POLICE...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HAAA!

LING LING, IT'S DANGER-OUS! THIS WAY!
O-OKAY !

NOW I UNDER-STAND IT ALL.
I SHALL...

...RETURN THIS MS. MITSU-BOSHI TO YOU.
I DON'T NEED HER, NARU-TAKI.

TMP TMP TMP

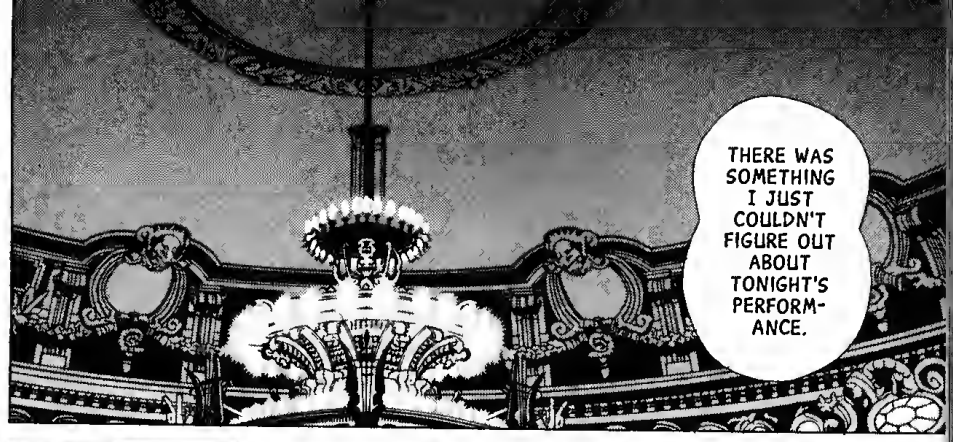

TMP TMP
HUFF
TMP
HUFF

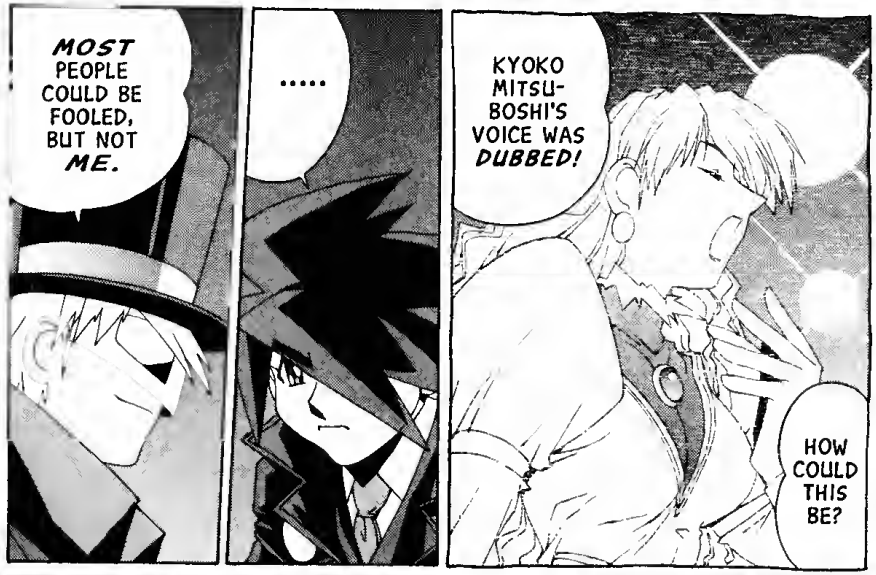
M-M-MISTER YOHANE, WHERE ARE WE GOING ?
TMP
TMP
HUFF
HUFF

IT'S SO OBVIOUS !
HUFF
TMP
HUFF
TMP

WE'RE GOING TO HELL!

!?


THERE WAS SOMETHING I JUST COULDN'T FIGURE OUT ABOUT TONIGHT'S PERFORM-ANCE.


MOST PEOPLE COULD BE FOOLED, BUT NOT ME.
.....
KYOKO MITSU-BOSHI'S VOICE WAS DUBBED!
HOW COULD THIS BE?

I COULD TELL IMMEDIATELY. HAD ANYONE ELSE NOTICED, IT WOULD HAVE RUINED THE REPUTATIONS OF MS. MITSUBOSHI AND THE OPERA PLAZA.
WITH ONLY POLICE IN THE AUDIENCE, NO ONE WOULD COMPLAIN EVEN IF THEY FOUND OUT.
BUT I'D HAZARD EVERYONE KNEW, BECAUSE IT WAS ALL A PART OF YOUR TRAP!

EE YAA AAH!
YES, HELL. DON'T YOU SEE?
THIS IS THE LAST SCENE OF MY OPERA "SACRIFICE."
THMP
BUT YOU AREN'T THE ONE WHO'LL DESCEND INTO HELL.
NARUTAKI WILL !!

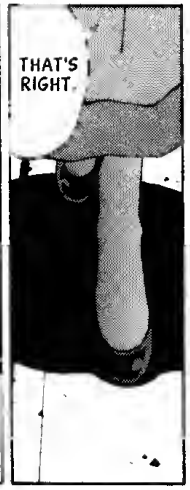
MITSUBOSHI'S VOICE IS DUBBED !?
THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE IS POLICE !?
FAY WENG! WERE YOU AWARE OF THIS?
I WAS.
PSSHH
ARR RGH!
WHUD
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE THE MANAGER OF OPERA PLAZA.
YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT MONEY. YOU SHOULD MANAGE A CASINO.
DID MS. MITSUBOSHI LOSE HER VOICE FROM A COLD? I THINK NOT.
HER MOVEMENTS WERE ODD, TOO, BECAUSE...
...THIS ISN'T A REAL ANGEL OF MUSIC!

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
NARU-TAKI!

YOU SET THIS TRAP TO PROTECT MS. MITSUBOSHI FROM ME.
HOW-EVER...

...YOU SET ONE MORE TRAP.
BUT IT HAS *BACK-FIRED.*
YOU SAW THROUGH MY WHOLE PLAN!
BUT IT'S NOT TOO REMARK-ABLE...

...WHEN SECRE-TARY FAY WENG...
...IS IN FACT *LANG LANG.*


THAT'S RIGHT.

TO MAKE THIS THE SCENE OF MY CRIME, I NEEDED ACCESS TO DETAILED IN-FORMATION.
THE GHOST'S RETURN WAS GOOD TIMING.

SO YOU *DID* ABDUCT THE ANGELS OF MUSIC ...
NOW I GET IT.

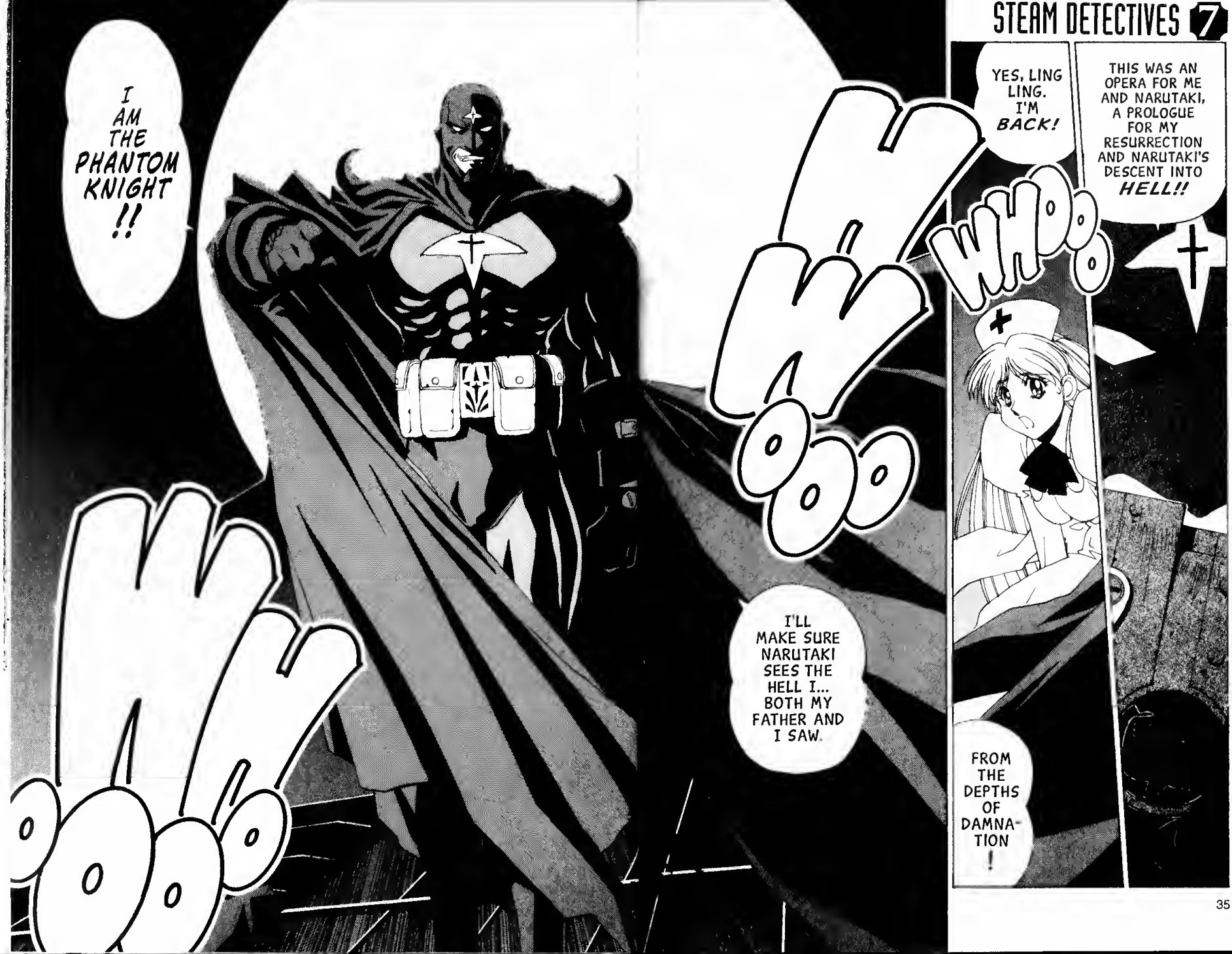
NOW THAT I KNOW YOU WEREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GHOST...
...I KNOW WHO THE OTHER VILLAIN IS!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE SOMEWHERE ELSE NOW, NARU-TAKI?

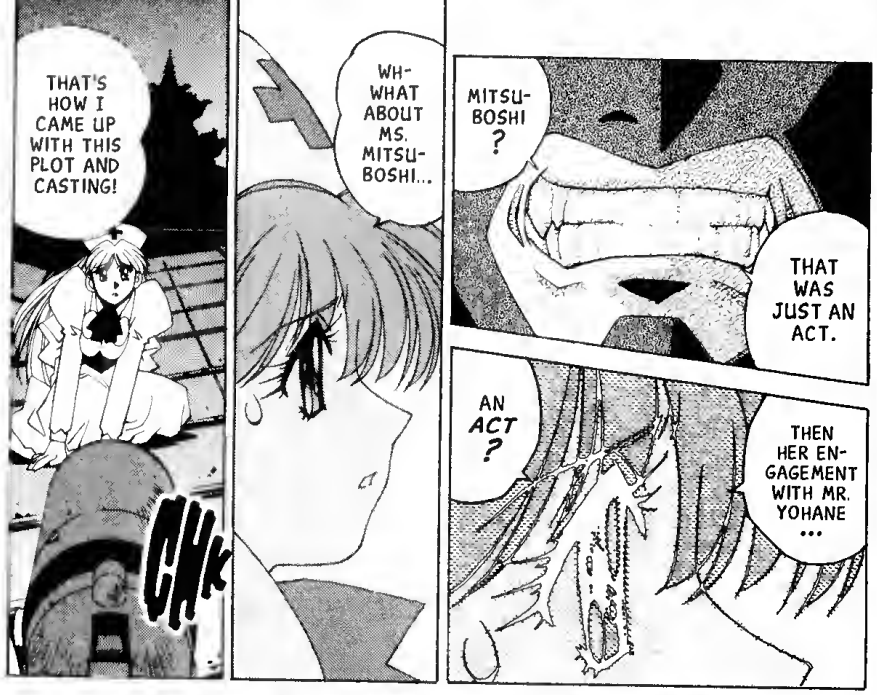
YOUR PRECIOUS FRIEND IS IN DANGER. NO?
!!

FWEE
EEE

I WON'T *KILL* NARUTAKI. DYING IS ONLY A FORM OF *ESCAPE...*
...OR OF LETTING SOMEONE ESCAPE. HE'LL LIVE TO SEE *HELL.*

NO, I WON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
HEE HEE
HEE HEE
NOT FROM *ME!!*
WHO *ARE* YOU?

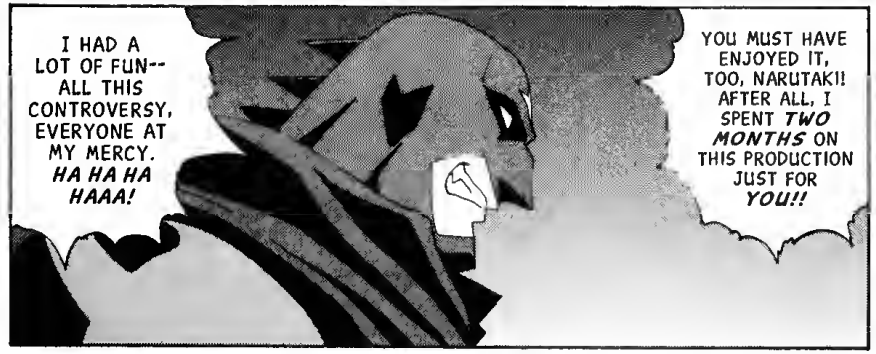

I AM THE PHANTOM KNIGHT !!
I'LL MAKE SURE NARUTAKI SEES THE HELL I... BOTH MY FATHER AND I SAW.
YES, LING LING. I'M BACK!
THIS WAS AN OPERA FOR ME AND NARUTAKI, A PROLOGUE FOR MY RESURRECTION AND NARUTAKI'S DESCENT INTO HELL!!
WHOOO
FROM THE DEPTHS OF DAMNATION !


THAT'S HOW I CAME UP WITH THIS PLOT AND CASTING!
CHK
WH-WHAT ABOUT MS. MITSU-BOSHI...
MITSU-BOSHI ?
THAT WAS JUST AN ACT.
AN ACT ?
THEN HER EN-GAGEMENT WITH MR. YOHANE ...

MERELY A RUSE...
...TO SPICE UP THE PLOT !

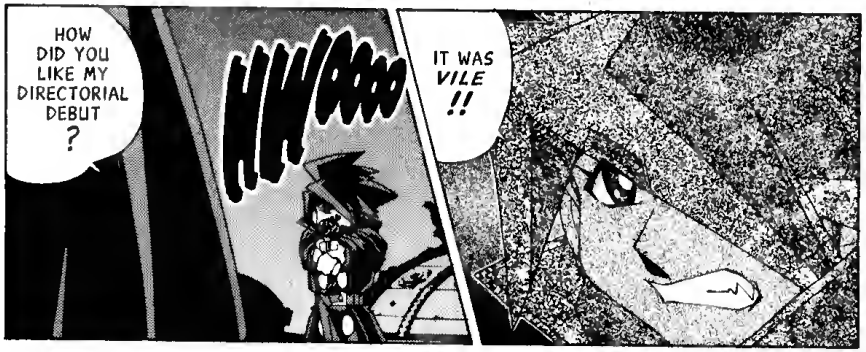
.....
BLAM
!?
SO IT WAS YOU, PHANTOM KNIGHT !!
WHOOO
HURTING SO MANY JUST TO GET AT ME! ONLY YOU WOULD MASTERMIND SUCH TERROR!!

IT'S UNFOR-GIVABLE !!
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
HA HA HA! THAT'S IT! SO NICE TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT.
YOU ARE MY PURPOSE IN LIFE. HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE OPERA COMMEMORA-TING OUR MEETING, NARUTAKI !?
HA HA HA! I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT BRAT OF A THIEF TO INTERFERE. BUT I USED HIM IN THE END!


I HAD A LOT OF FUN-- ALL THIS CONTROVERSY, EVERYONE AT MY MERCY. HA HA HA HAAA!
YOU MUST HAVE ENJOYED IT, TOO, NARUTAKI! AFTER ALL, I SPENT TWO MONTHS ON THIS PRODUCTION JUST FOR YOU!!

GRRR! YOU'RE THE GHOST. YOU DESTROYED THE VOICES OF THE ANGELS OF MUSIC.
WHOO
HWA OOO
FWP
THE CHANDELIER, THE VALVALLA LEAVES, THE GHOST'S BLOOD--THEY WERE ALL PART OF YOUR PLOT!

WHAT'S A DETECTIVE STORY WITHOUT ANY CLUES? RIGHT?
HEE HEE! AND AS THE DIRECTOR, I GOT THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE!

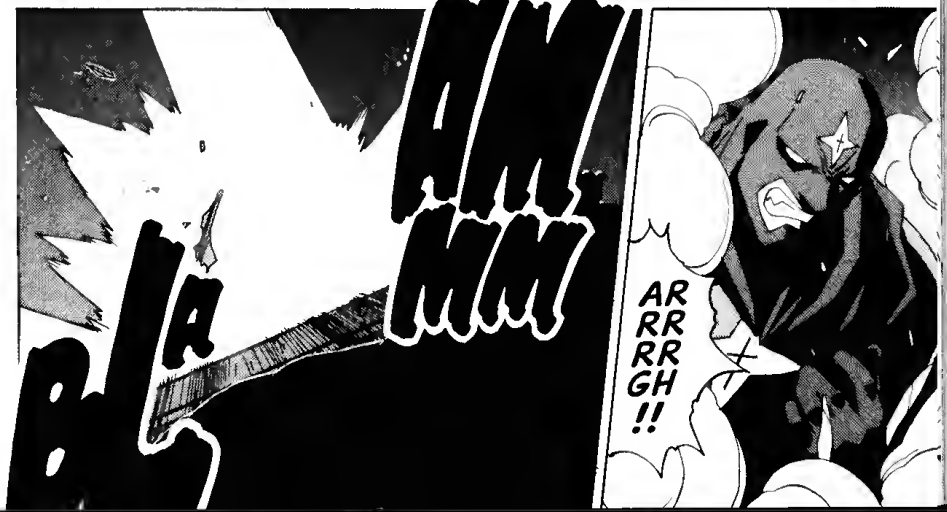

HOW DID YOU LIKE MY DIRECTORIAL DEBUT ?
HWOOOO
IT WAS VILE !!

HA HA HA! BUT THE LAST SCENE ISN'T OVER YET!
SHING
THE FINAL CURTAIN COMES WITH THE DEATH OF YOUR BELOVED PARTNER, LING LING!!

SO NARUTAKI SUFFERS A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH. NOW YOU DIE!!

!!

STOP!! SHE'S NOT-- !!


BLA
AM MM
ARRRRGH !!

SHE'S NOT LING LING. SHE'S KYOKO MITSUBOSHI, LAST OF THE SEVEN ANGELS OF MUSIC!
WOOSH
SHHH
SSH
NARUTAKI, YOUR PLAN TO PROTECT KYOKO MITSUBOSHI NEARLY FAILED. HOW VERY UNLIKE YOU!
PHANTOM KNIGHT, OR WHOEVER YOU ARE, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM THE PHANTOM THIEF, LE BREAD!
THANKS FOR SULLYING MY REPUTATION AND THE ART I SO CHERISH! ALLOW ME TO RETURN THE FAVOR!!

BLAM!!
UP
PANG
KRAGH
YOU BRATS !!

THANKS TO YOU, NARUTAKI, MY PLOT WENT ASKEW !!
FSSSHH
CH!
...BUT I'M SATISFIED. I HAVE RETURNED TO THIS CITY !
DON'T FORGET! YOUR TRUE HELL...
...IS ONLY BEGIN-NING !!
PHAN-TOM ...
GHU
WAIT !!
!

WERE YOU REALLY... YOHANE !?

I WASN'T YOHANE !

YOHANE WAS ME !!
JUST AN ILLUSION.

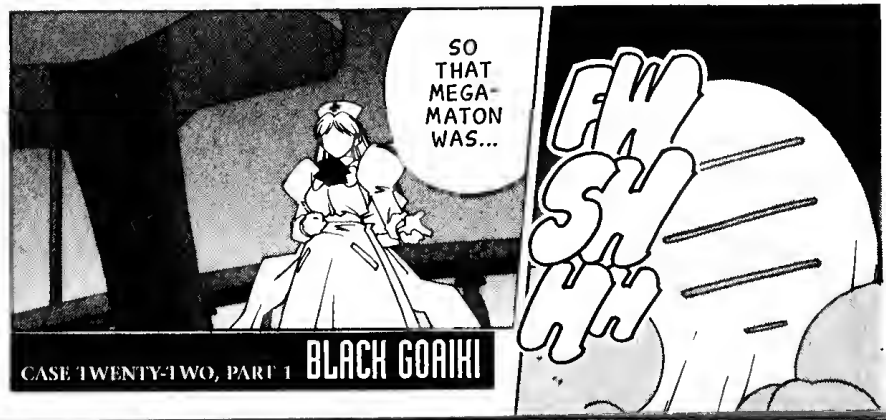
.....
I...

NO MATTER WHAT, I WON'T FORGET THE TWO MONTHS I SPENT WITH YOHANE. I WAS SO HAPPY! I LOVED MASAO YOHANE!
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ILLUSION, BUT THE TWO MONTHS I LOVED HIM WERE REAL! THAT LOVE WAS NO ILLUSION!

AS YOU WISH.
FWIP
.....
WHOOOOOO
OOOOOO

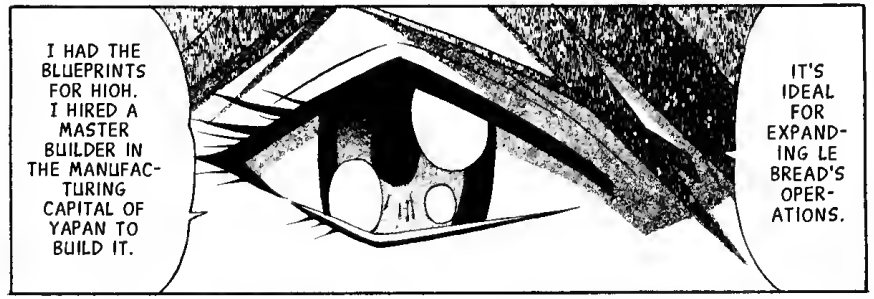
WAS I USED, OR DID I...
...SOME-HOW HELP HIM?
LE BREAD ...
IN ANY CASE, EVERYONE SUFFERED THIS TIME AROUND.
OOO
WHOOOOOO
WE'RE GOING LANG LANG.
HWSSSSSH
ALL RIGHT.
I'M SO SORRY, MS. MITSUBOSHI. I ENDED UP ENDANGER-ING YOU...
DON'T FEEL BAD. ALL DREAMS MUST COME TO AN END.
IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE TO REMEM-BER OR FORGET THIS ONE.

Case 21: CLOSED



CASE TWENTY-TWO, PART 1 BLACK GORIKI

YES. IT'S THE MEGA-MATON OUR FATHER DESIGNED AFTER GORIKI.
IT'S HIOH !!
CASE TWENTY-TWO, PART 1 BLACK GORIKI


I HAD THE BLUEPRINTS FOR HIOH. I HIRED A MASTER BUILDER IN THE MANUFACTURING CAPITAL OF YAPAN TO BUILD IT.
IT'S IDEAL FOR EXPANDING LE BREAD'S OPERATIONS.

LET'S JUST HOPE "GORIKI" AND "HIOH," THE TWO MEGAMATONS OUR FATHER DESIGNED, DON'T END UP FIGHTING.
LANG LANG ...

OF COURSE. NOW THAT IT'S LE BREAD'S, IT'S NO LONGER CALLED HIOH.
NOW IT'S...

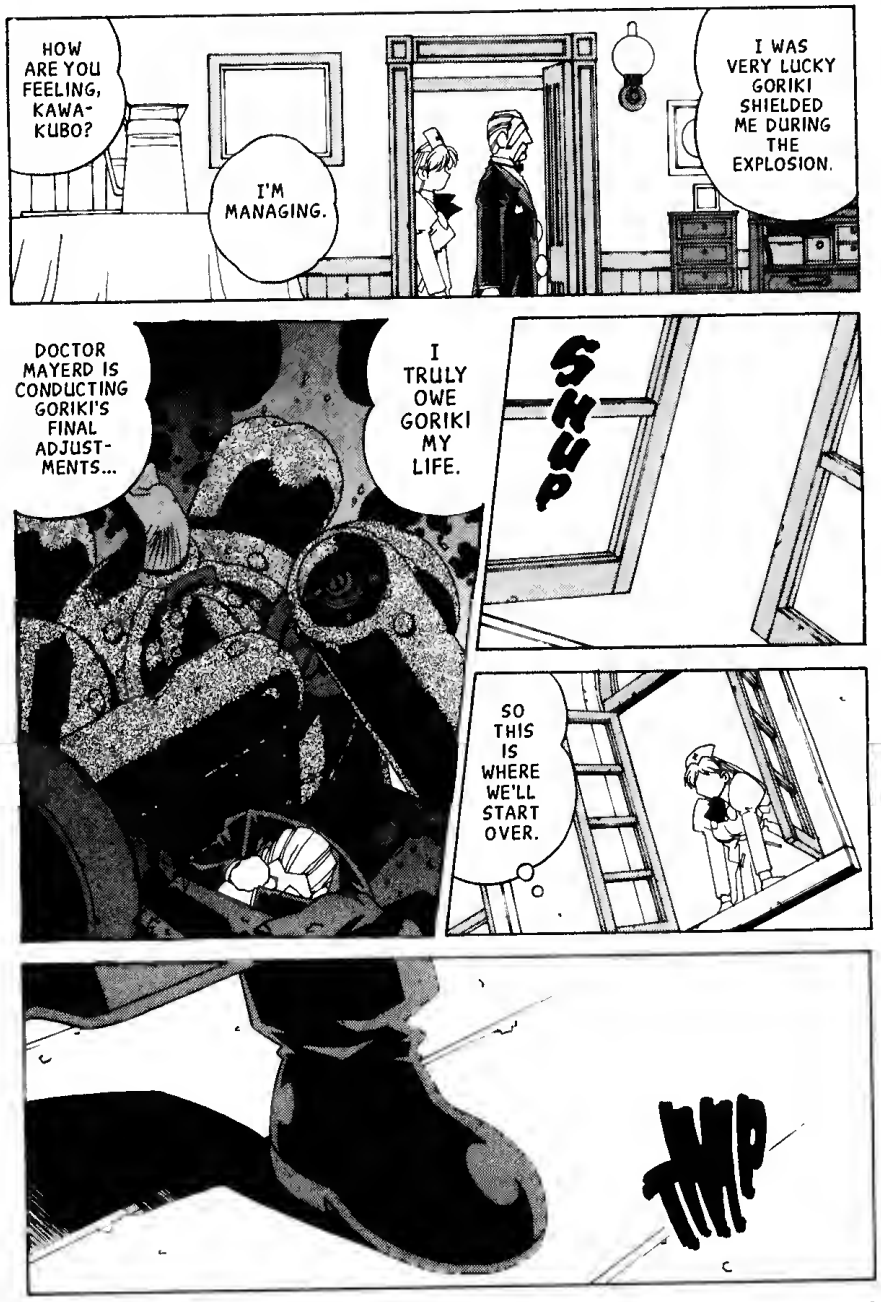
...STEAM BAT! DON'T YOU THINK IT SUITS THE BOY THIEF?
WE'LL MEET AGAIN, LING LING.

HIOH.

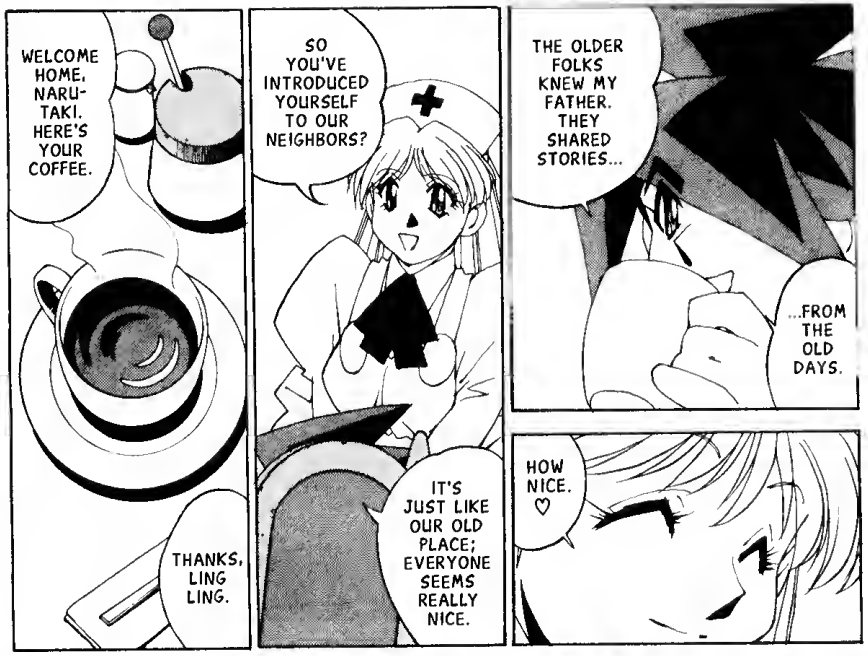
OUR FATHER'S ...
HA HA HA HA HAA...

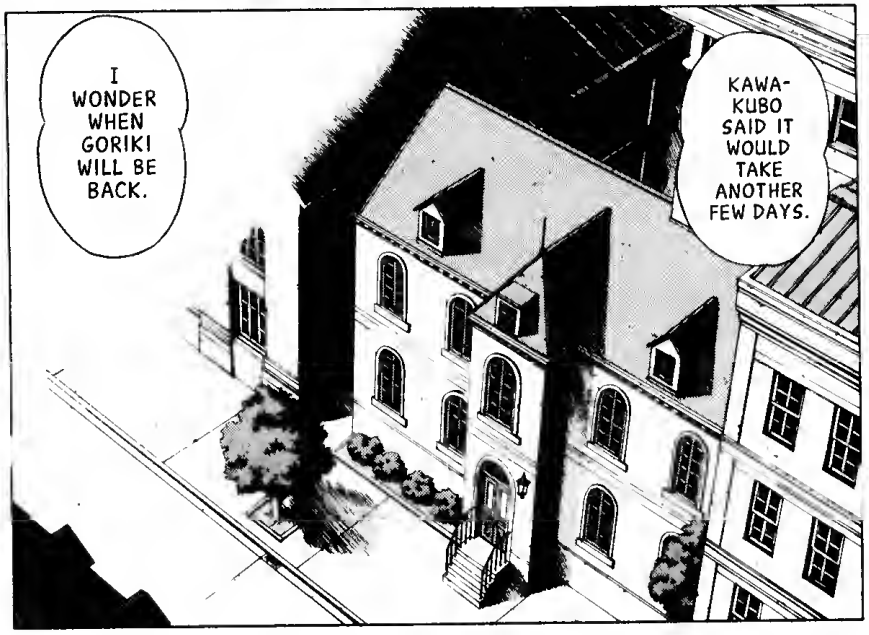
FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS THE SAME AS OUR LAST OFFICE.
IT'S THE SAME *INSIDE,* TOO. AFTER ALL, THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICE.
FIRST? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THIS OLD OFFICE IS THE ONE NARUTAKI'S FATHER USED TO USE.
OUR PREVIOUS OFFICE WAS MODELED AFTER THIS ONE.
WE'VE FINALLY MOVED INTO OUR NEW OFFICE!
I DIDN'T KNOW ...

BUT THE DOOR'S SIGN ISN'T PAINTED YET.


HOW ARE YOU FEELING, KAWA-KUBO?
I'M MANAGING.
I WAS VERY LUCKY GORIKI SHIELDED ME DURING THE EXPLOSION.
DOCTOR MAYERD IS CONDUCTING GORIKI'S FINAL ADJUST-MENTS...
I TRULY OWE GORIKI MY LIFE.
SHUP
SO THIS IS WHERE WE'LL START OVER.
HP

I'M HOME!
KOO-GHAH


WELCOME HOME, NARU-TAKI. HERE'S YOUR COFFEE.
THANKS, LING LING.
SO YOU'VE INTRODUCED YOURSELF TO OUR NEIGHBORS?
IT'S JUST LIKE OUR OLD PLACE; EVERYONE SEEMS REALLY NICE.
THE OLDER FOLKS KNEW MY FATHER. THEY SHARED STORIES...
...FROM THE OLD DAYS.
HOW NICE. ♡


I WONDER WHEN GORIKI WILL BE BACK.
KAWA-KUBO SAID IT WOULD TAKE ANOTHER FEW DAYS.

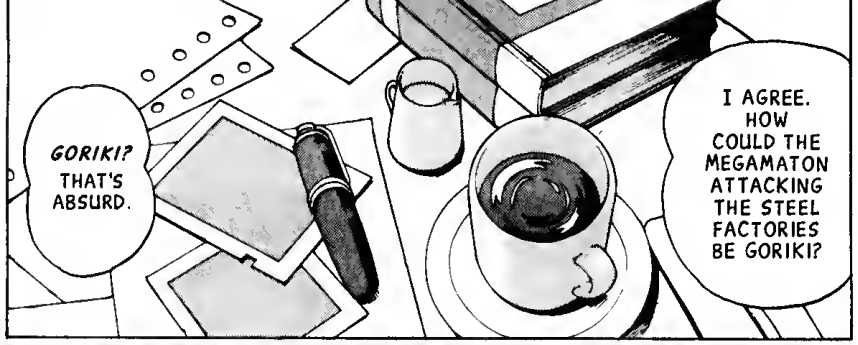
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP

KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
ZING
SHA-CHING
KRRSH

BOOM
FWOOM
WHO'D
WA AAA AAA AH!
GWOOOOOO
OOOGWH

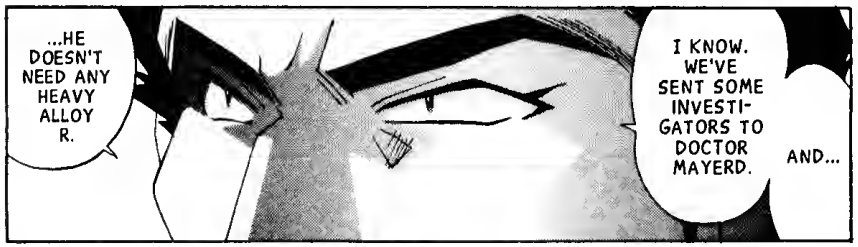
THE FOLLOWING DAY.
ANOTHER STEEL FACTORY WAS ATTACKED BY THAT MYSTERY MEGA-MATON !
IT'S THE FOURTH ATTACK THIS MONTH.
40 TONS OF THE HEAVY ALLOY R WERE STOLEN.
HEAVY ALLOY R...
THAT'S A NEW ALLOY PRIMARILY USED FOR MEGA-MATON ARMOR...
Fu
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? NO READING WHILE YOU EAT!!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN WEARING YOUR NAPKIN !!
HEY!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG. I WAS EATING WHILE I READ!

THAT WOULD BE FINE.
BUT ...
THERE'S NO DIF-FERENCE! READ THE PAPER AFTER YOU EAT.
Y-YES, MA'AM.
HEY.
CONGRA-TULATIONS ON YOUR MOVE, NARU-TAKI.
WE HAVE A SEARCH WARRANT FOR YOUR OFFICE.
WHAT ??


GORIKI? THAT'S ABSURD.
I AGREE. HOW COULD THE MEGAMATON ATTACKING THE STEEL FACTORIES BE GORIKI?

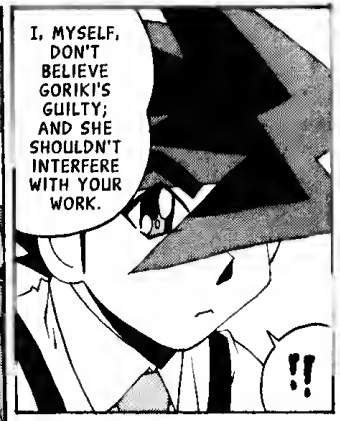
BUT WE HAVE WITNESSES.
AND NOT JUST ONE OR TWO.
ALL THE WITNESSES SAY THE SAME THING.
"IT WAS GORIKI."
KAK
CHAK
K-CHAK
SS SYP
ISH-ISH

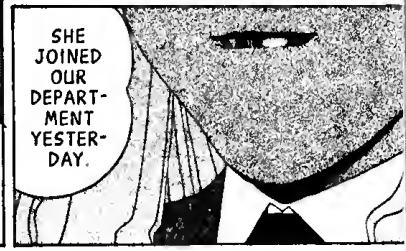
GORIKI'S BEEN IN REPAIR AT DOCTOR MAYERD'S LAB.
HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY COME OUT AT NIGHT. BESIDES...


...HE DOESN'T NEED ANY HEAVY ALLOY R.
I KNOW. WE'VE SENT SOME INVESTIGATORS TO DOCTOR MAYERD.
AND...

...WE'VE ASSIGNED AN OFFICER TO YOU.
WHAT !?

IT'S JUST A FORMALITY, UNTIL GORIKI'S PROVEN INNOCENT.
LOOK...


I, MYSELF, DON'T BELIEVE GORIKI'S GUILTY; AND SHE SHOULDN'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK.
!!


SHE JOINED OUR DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY.

I AM ANNA HIGHEND. PLEASED TO MEET YOU, NARUTAKI !

H-HELLO ...
HMPH!
I'LL BE BACK, NARU-TAKI.
LOOK AFTER HIM, ANNA.
WE'VE TAKEN THE RELEVANT DOCU-MENTS, SIR.
ALL RIGHT. LEAVE A FEW MEN BEHIND, THEN LET'S GO.
HUH ?
DETEC-TIVE ONIGA-WARA !
.....
YES, SIR!

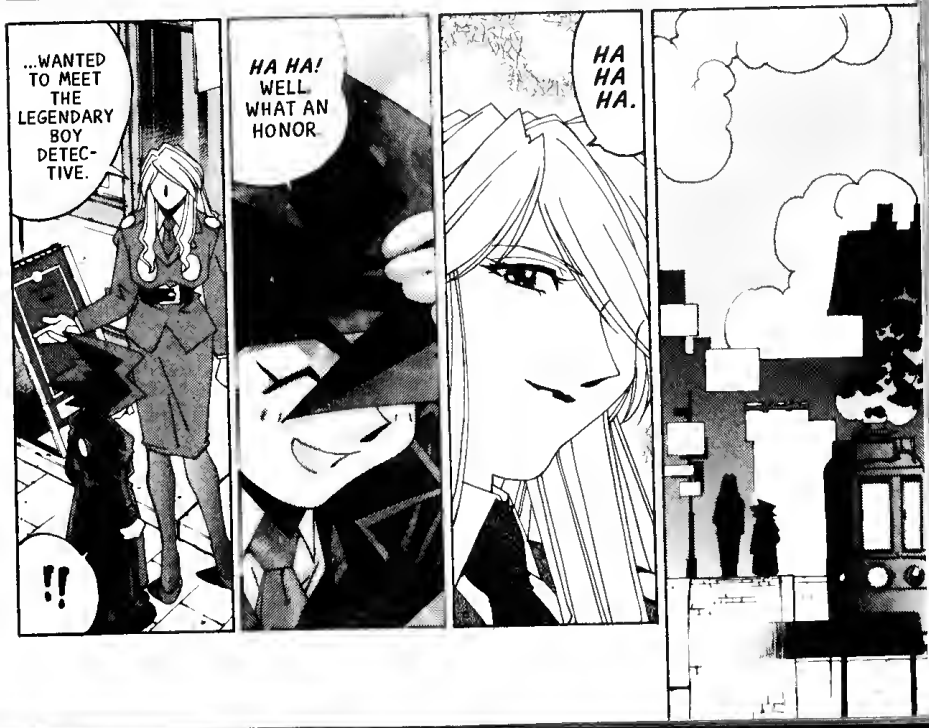
ARE YOU LEAVING THE OFFICE LIKE THIS!?
YOU'RE STAYING UNTIL THIS MESS IS CLEANED UP!!

GRRRR!
A-ALL RIGHT ...
E-EV-EVERYONE, START CLEANING!
YES, SIR!

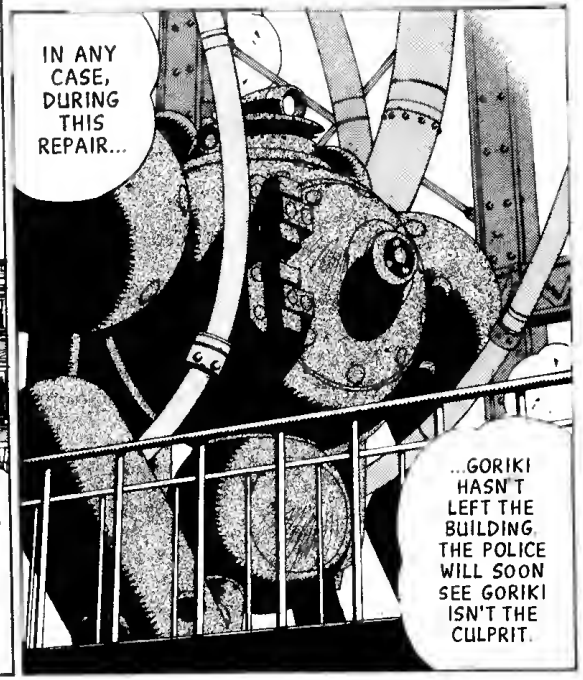
THIS AFTER WE JUST FINISHED MOVING AND ORGANIZING EVERY-THING !!
SLAM
H-HEY, WHAT'S UP WITH LING LING ?
BEATS ME.

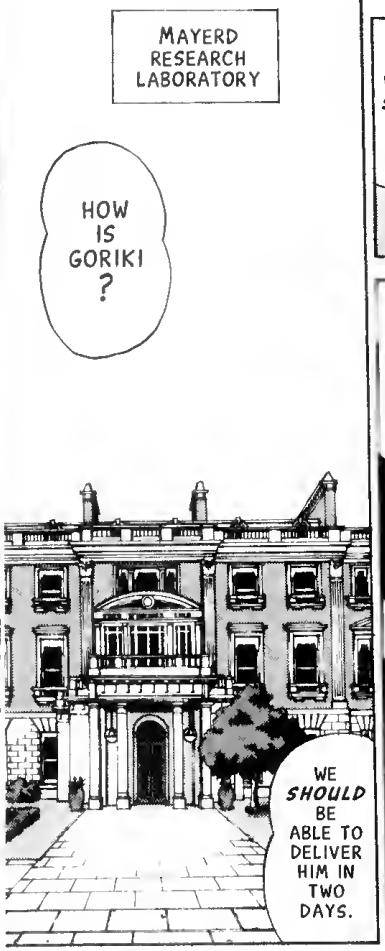
FOUR FACTORIES HAVE BEEN ATTACKED...
...SO I'LL KEEP WATCH OVER THE OTHER THREE.
BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
ELECTRICAL CITY.

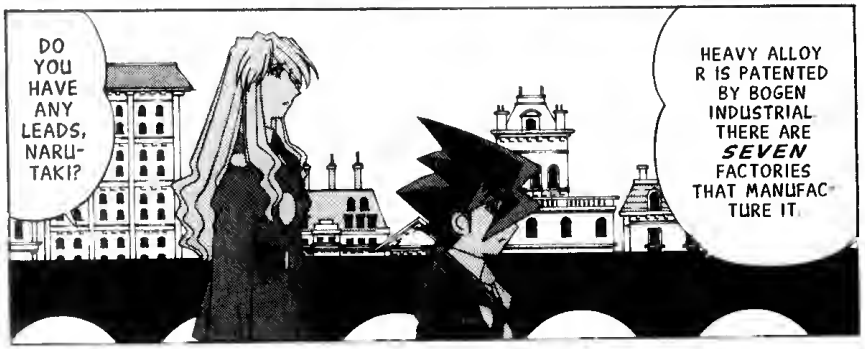
WE FINISHED UP A BIG CASE OVER THERE, SO I REQUESTED A TRANSFER TO STEAM CITY.
I ALSO...


...WANTED TO MEET THE LEGENDARY BOY DETECTIVE.
!!
HA HA! WELL, WHAT AN HONOR.
HA HA HA.

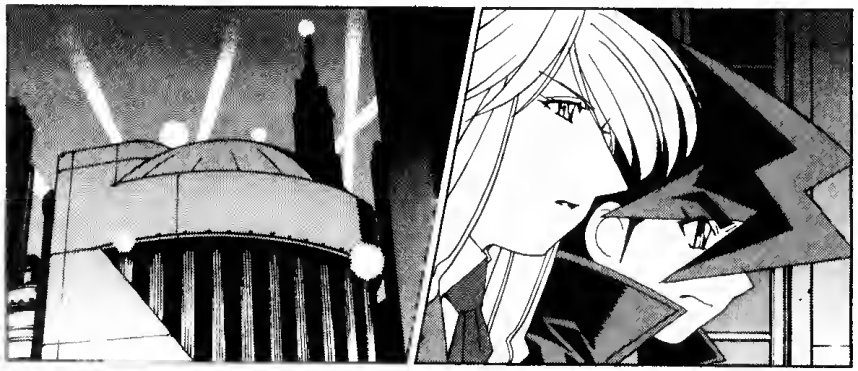
BUT WITH THIS SCRUTINY ...
HA HA.


IN ANY CASE, DURING THIS REPAIR...
...GORIKI HASN'T LEFT THE BUILDING. THE POLICE WILL SOON SEE GORIKI ISN'T THE CULPRIT.


MAYERD RESEARCH LABORATORY
HOW IS GORIKI ?
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DELIVER HIM IN TWO DAYS.


DO YOU HAVE ANY LEADS, NARUTAKI?
HEAVY ALLOY R IS PATENTED BY BOGEN INDUSTRIAL THERE ARE SEVEN FACTORIES THAT MANUFACTURE IT.

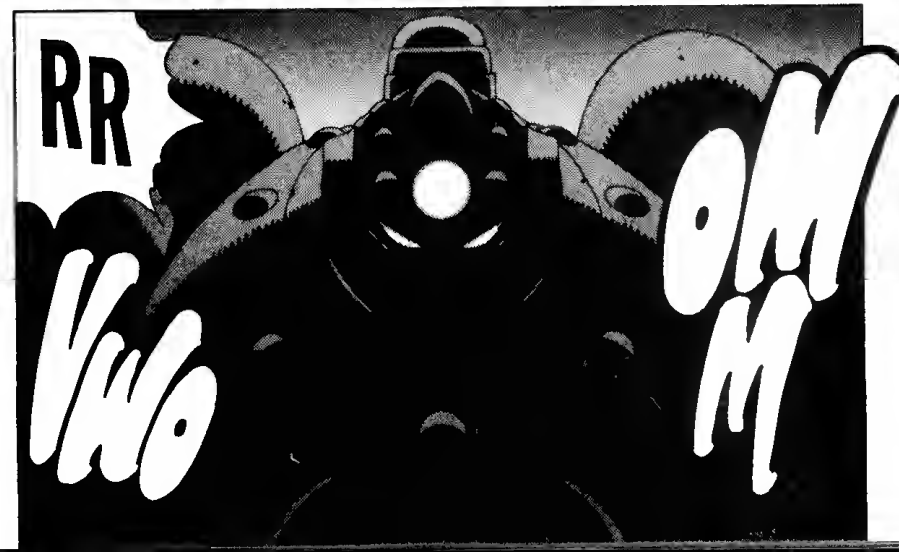
WH
OOOH



HA HA HA! AS EXPECTED, THEY'RE WAITING FOR ME.

THEN I MUST MEET THEIR EXPECTA-TIONS!
THE NIGHT WIND IS CHILLING.

GO, GORIKI !!
GO AND TAKE THE HEAVY ALLOY R!!

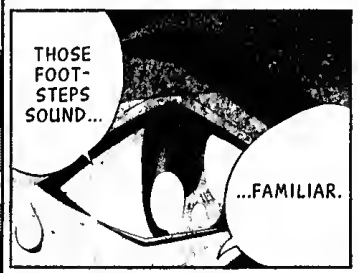

RR
VWO
OH!
M

AH-CHOO !!
!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ANNA ?
IT'S COLD TONIGHT. HAVE SOME COCOA.

THANK YOU, NARU-TAKI.
YOU'RE SO KIND.

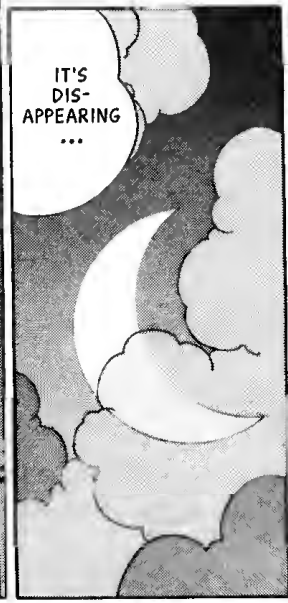
KA-FUMP
!!
WRRR WRRR WRRR

KA-FU MP

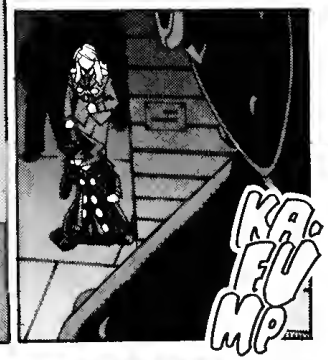

THOSE FOOT-STEPS SOUND...
...FAMILIAR.

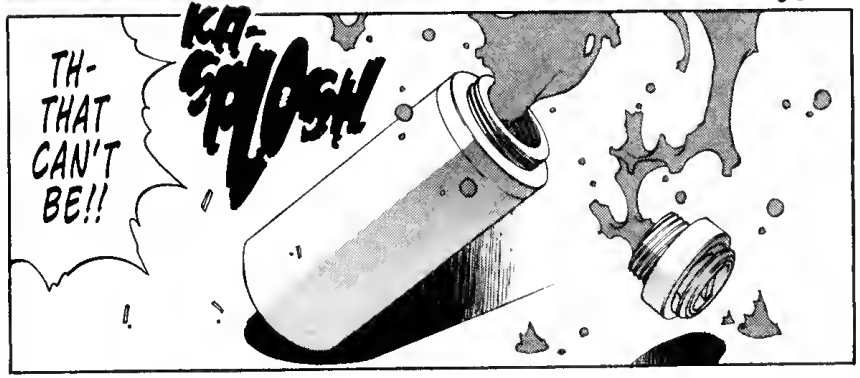
KA-FU MP

THE MOON ...
!!


IT'S DIS-APPEARING ...

KA-FU MP


KA-FU MP


TH-THAT CAN'T BE!!
KA-SPLOSH!

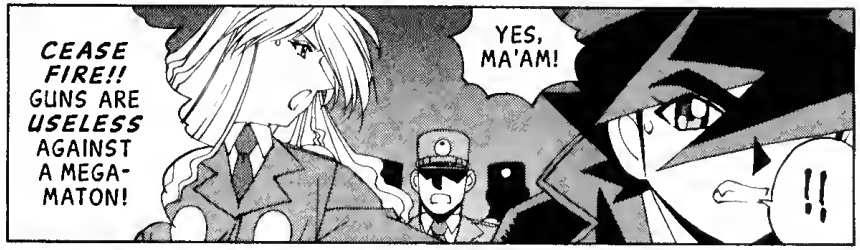
CASE TWENTY-TWO, PART 2 MEGAMATON CLASH! GOAIHI VS. GOAIHI?

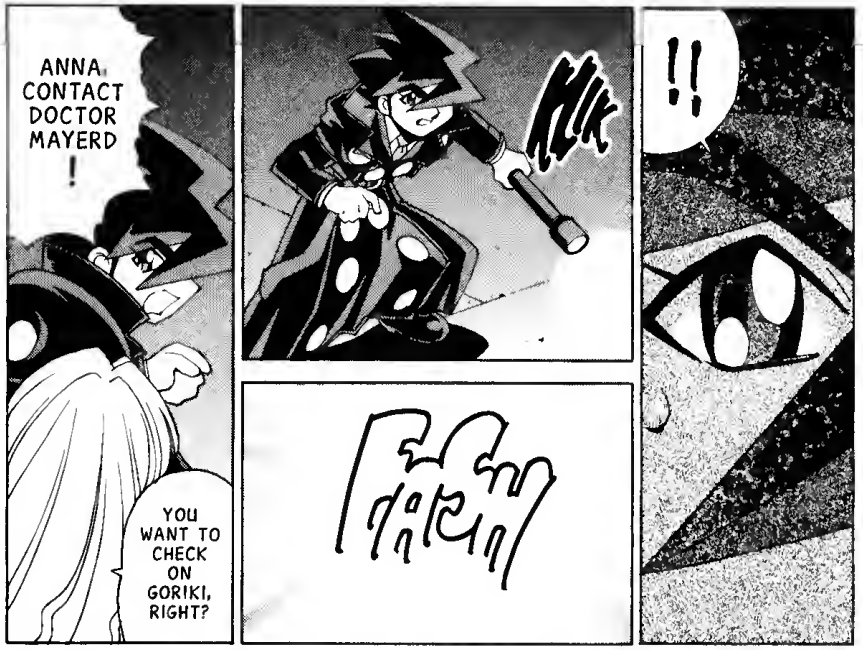
KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP

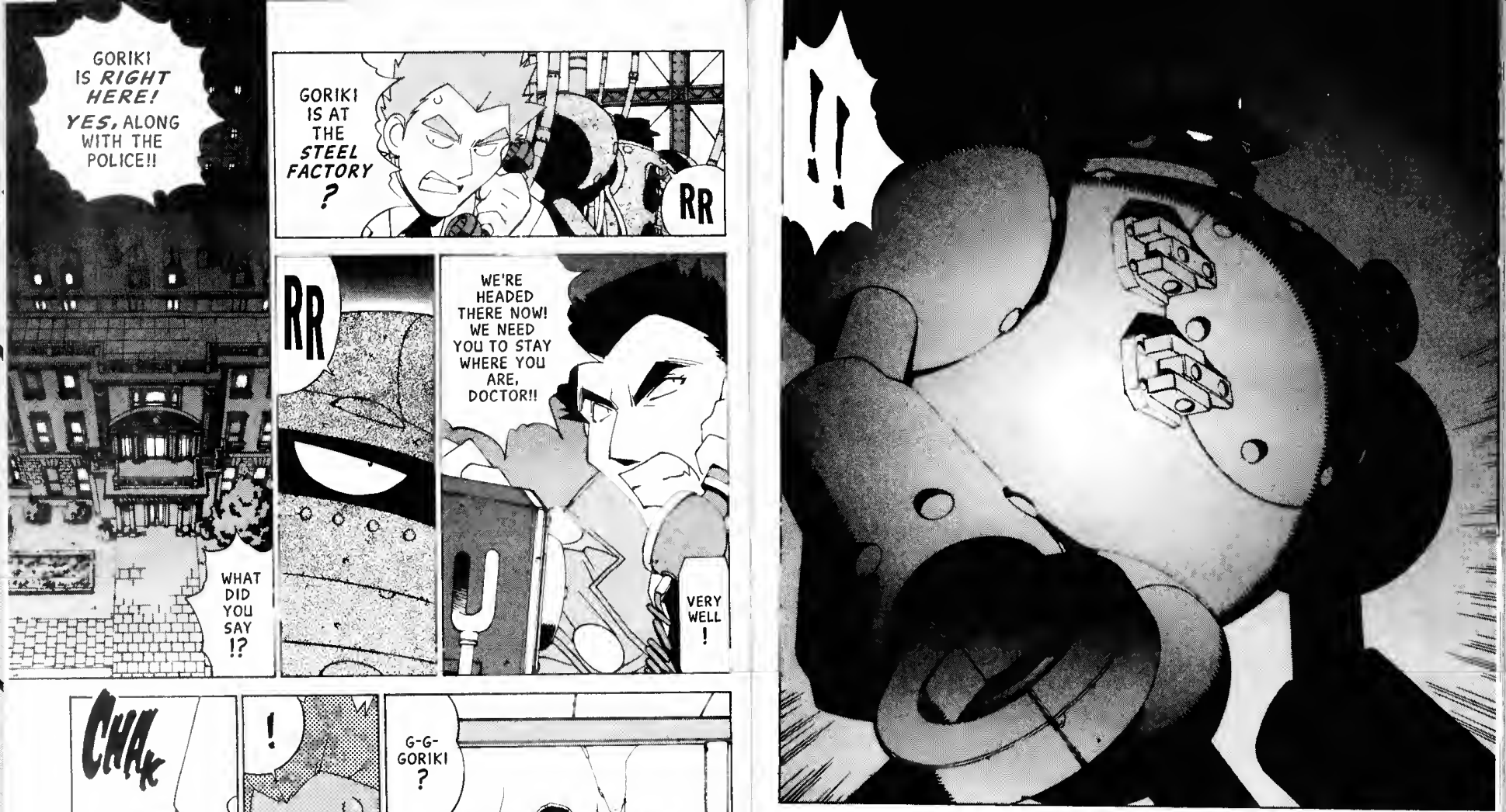
G-G-
GORIKI
!!

THAT CAN'T BE!!
KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP
KRRR
RGH
DETECTIVE! GORIKI IS ATTACKING STEEL FACTORY NO. 4!!
WHAT!? THAT'S WHERE NARUTAKI IS!!

FIRE !!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
ZIN NG
ZIN NG
ZIN NG


CEASE FIRE!! GUNS ARE USELESS AGAINST A MEGA-MATON!
YES, MA'AM!
!!


ANNA, CONTACT DOCTOR MAYERD !
YOU WANT TO CHECK ON GORIKI, RIGHT?
KLK
!!

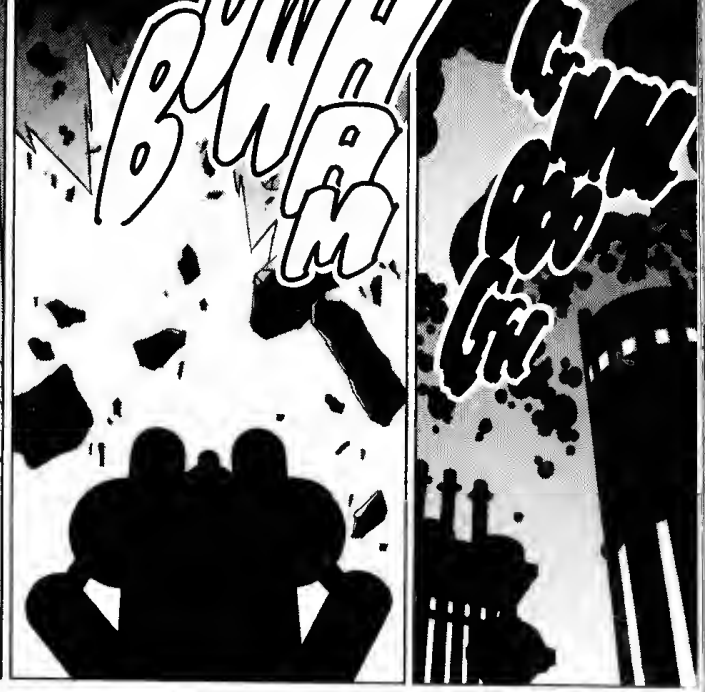

GORIKI IS *RIGHT HERE!*
YES, ALONG WITH THE POLICE!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY !?
GORIKI IS AT THE *STEEL FACTORY* ?
RR
RR
WE'RE HEADED THERE NOW! WE NEED YOU TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE, DOCTOR!!
VERY WELL !
CHAK
WHAT IS GOING ON?
!
G-G-GORIKI ?
CHK CHAK
!!
BLACK! THIS GORIKI IS *BLACK!*
IT'S A *FAKE* !!

THAT'S RIGHT, NARUTAKI!
BUT IT'S NOT CALLED "FAKE" GORIKI !!

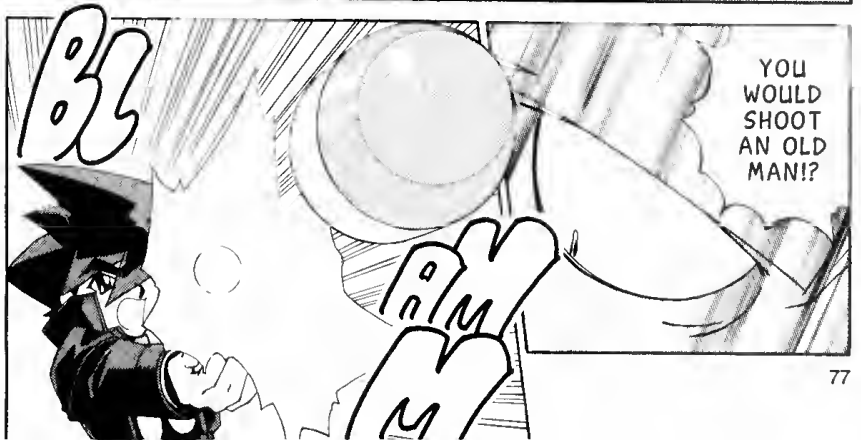
HA HA HAA! NARUTAKI, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
IT'S DR. GUILTY.
I KNEW IT!

IT'S CALLED SHADOW BOLT NO. 4 !!
KA-FU-MP
YOU MUST REMEMBER ME!!
IT'S BASED ON DR. HSU'S BLUE-PRINTS, MODIFIED BY YOURS TRULY!

HENCE, IT IS STRONGER THAN GORIKI !!
NOW GO, No. 4! TAKE THE HEAVY ALLOY R!!


BUHAM
GUHAHAHA

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
KA-CHAK


YOU WOULD SHOOT AN OLD MAN!?
BAM

BAP
FOO
FAHOOM
NO !!
GRRR
GHOOOH
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH STRANGE WEAPONS!
UN NG ...
NARUTAKI, THERE'S A PROBLEM !
WHAT !?
GORIKI'S GONE !?

GUHAHAHA
KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP

KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP

KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP

GORIKI, IF YOU CAN MOVE NOW...
...MOVE QUICKLY !

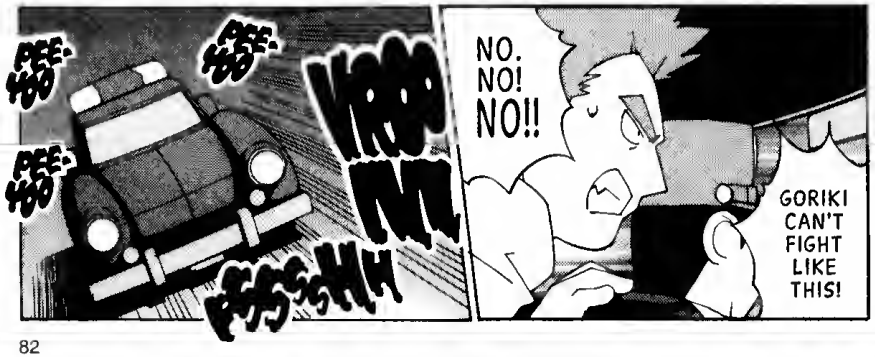
GUHAHAHA

WE'VE GOT THE HEAVY ALLOY R !
KRICH
KRI..
KRICH
KRI..
WOOO

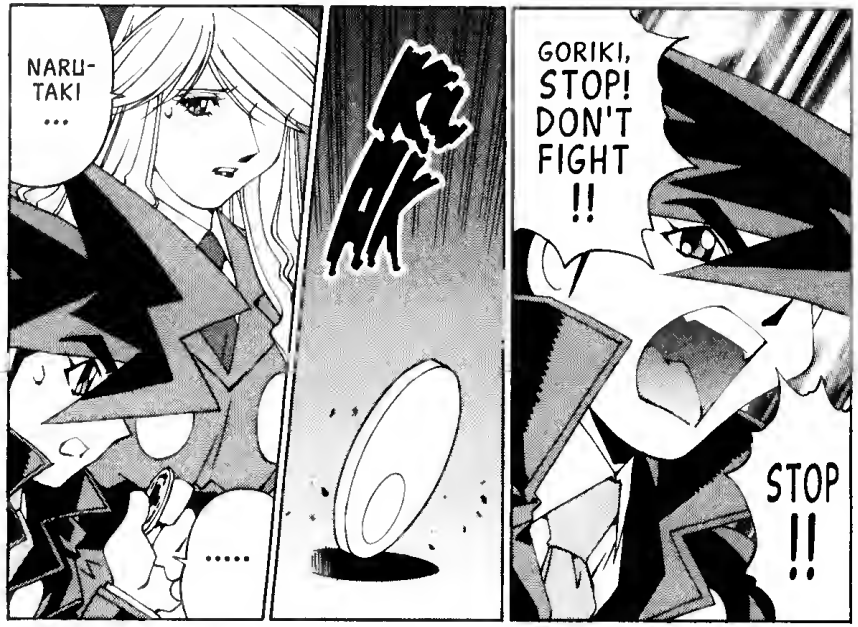
GORIKI !!
TCH!

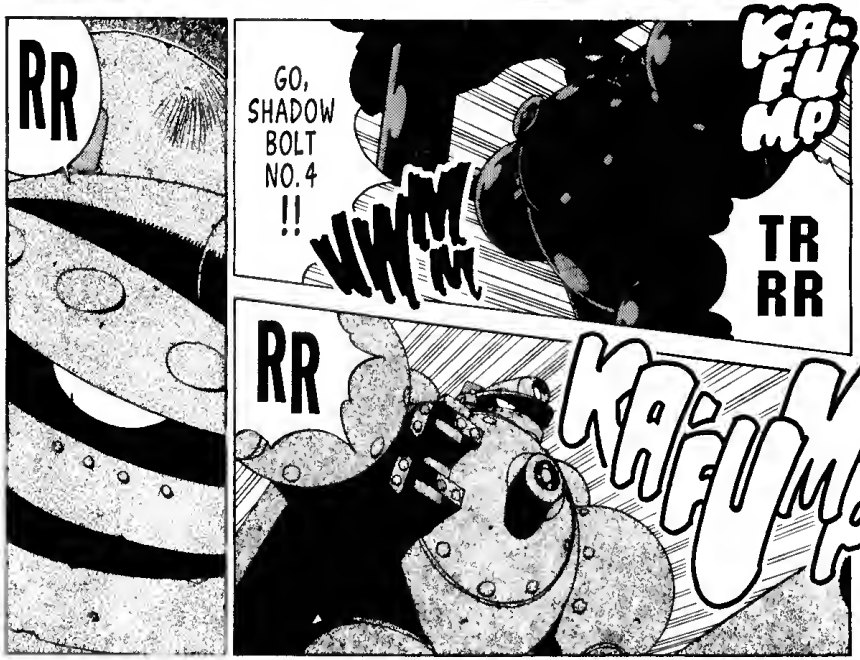
RR

TR RR RR


PEE-HOO
PEE-HOO
PEE-HOO
VROOM
FSSSHH
NO. NO! NO!!
GORIKI CAN'T FIGHT LIKE THIS!

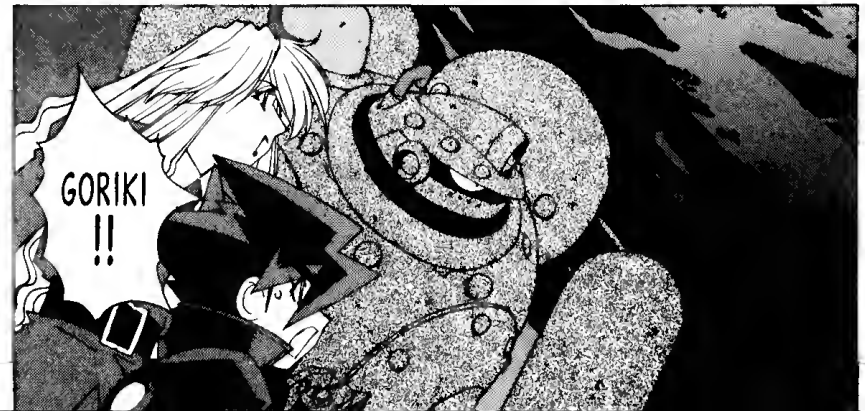
I HAVEN'T FINISHED CALIBRATING GORIKI'S JOINTS, YET!
GORIKI CAN'T EVEN USE *HALF* HIS NORMAL STRENGTH!


NARU-
TAKI
...
.....
GORIKI,
STOP!
DON'T
FIGHT
!!
STOP
!!


RR
GO,
SHADOW
BOLT
NO.4
!!
KA-FU-MP
WHMM
TR
RR
RR
KA-FU-MP

HOO
MM

AA
AA
AH!
WHU
MP


GORIKI
!!

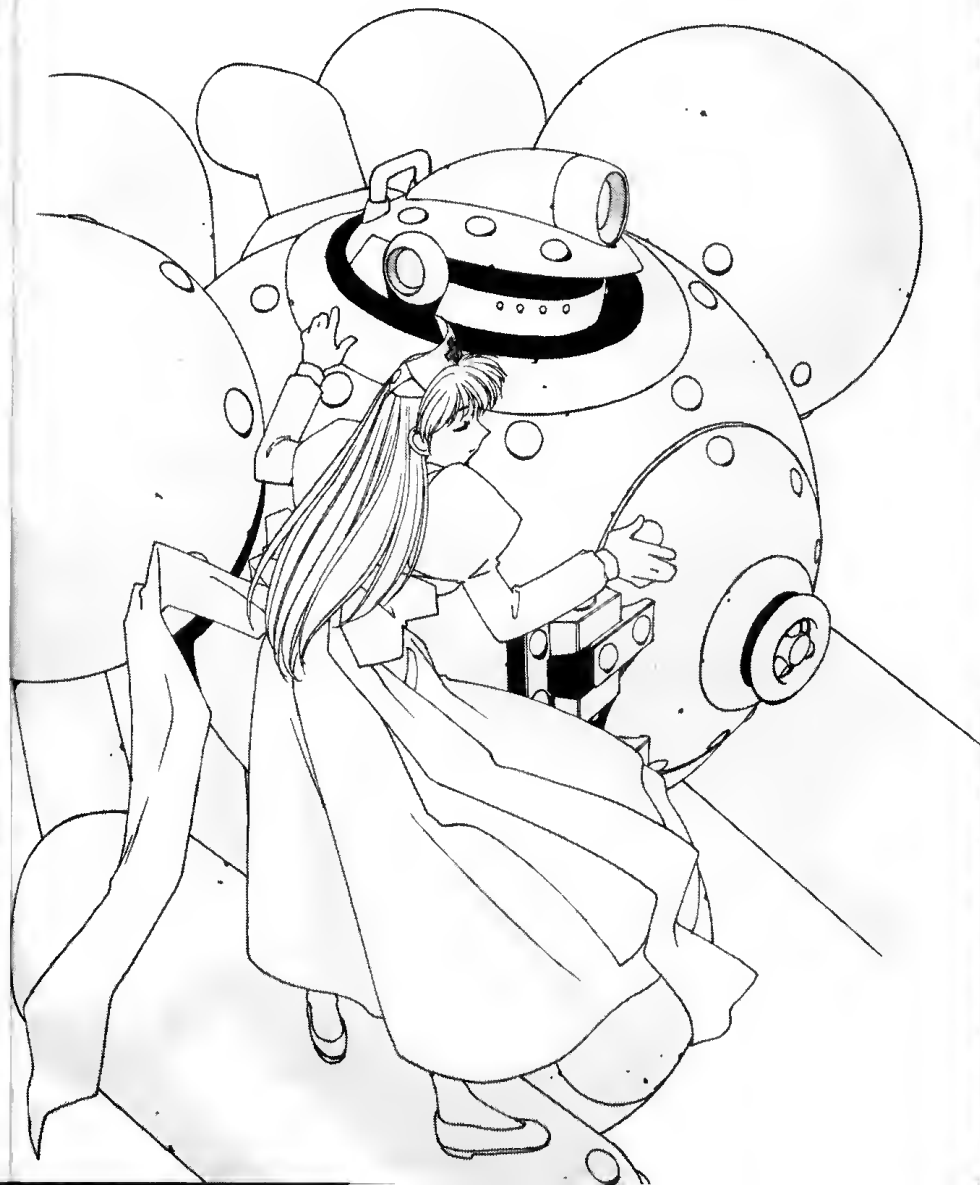
RUN, GORIKI !
YOU'RE IN NO CONDI-TION TO FIGHT!!
HIS MOTION IS OFF-BALANCE! GORIKI !!
RR
TR RR RR

KA-SHING
SA
KRRRASSH
GORIKI !!
BAM M
THRAKK
GORIKI WON'T STOP!
HE CAN'T STAND THERE BEING A COPY OF HIMSELF!

HE WON'T LET EVIL BE COMMITTED IN HIS NAME!
GORIKI !!
BLAM M
BLAM M
BLAM M
FOOO SSH
WH UP
WH UP
WH UP
HU HUP
HA HA HAA! IT'S NO USE, NARU-TAKI!!
DON'T FORGET HOW STRONG SHADOW BOLT ARMOR IS!
GRR RR!
SHA-CHING
THIS IS THE END !!
VRRRR

CASE TWENTY-TWO, PART 3

FINAL BATTLE! A FATHER'S BEQUEATHMENT



VRRR
RRR
VR-SKREECH
RRRM
RRM VRROOOM
GOODBYE, NARU-TAKI!! GOODBYE, GORIKI !!
HA HA HA! DR. HSU LOSES!! HA HA HA HA HAA!
GR RR ...
OH
OK

SHUM
VROOOM
KA-FU MP
KA-FU MP
HA HA HA!
KA-FU MP
RR RM
VRRRRRRR

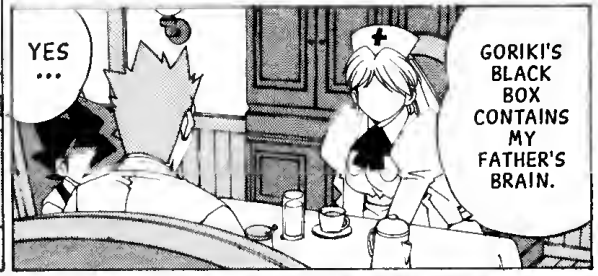
SKRREECH
KA-CHAK
KRCH

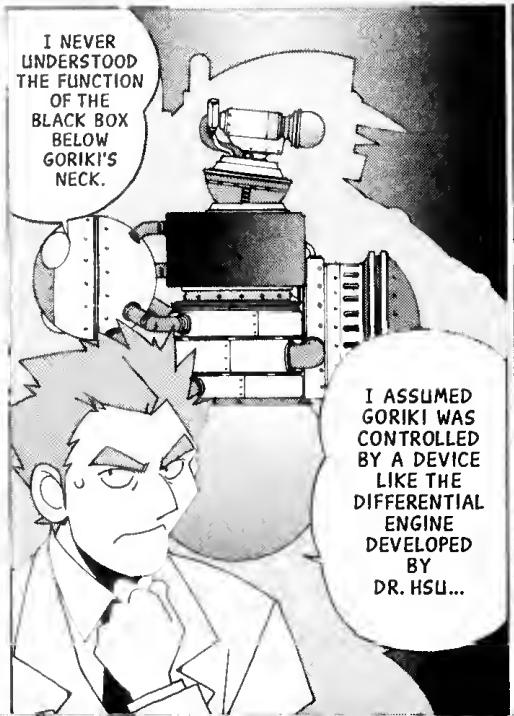
WHAT ...

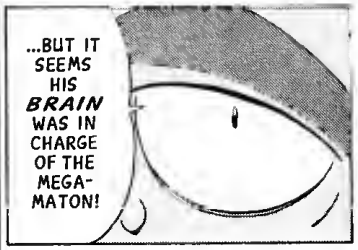
GWOOOGH
GORIKI !!
GWOOOGH
GWOOOGH
FATHER!
GWOOGH
GWOOGH
NOOOO!!
GWOOOGH

ONE MONTH LATER.
ヒュー

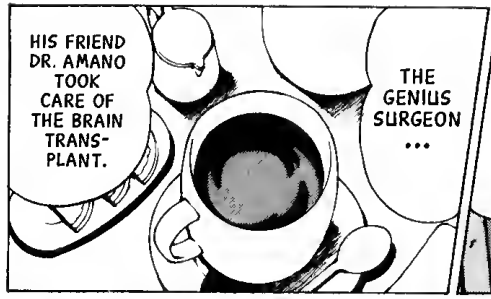
WHAT !!
GORIKI HIDES SUCH A SECRET !?

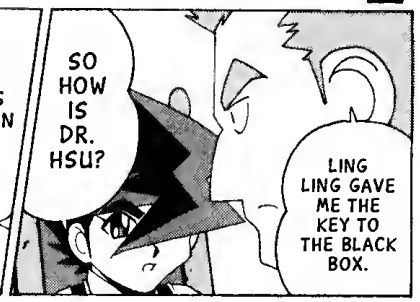

YES ...
GORIKI'S BLACK BOX CONTAINS MY FATHER'S BRAIN.

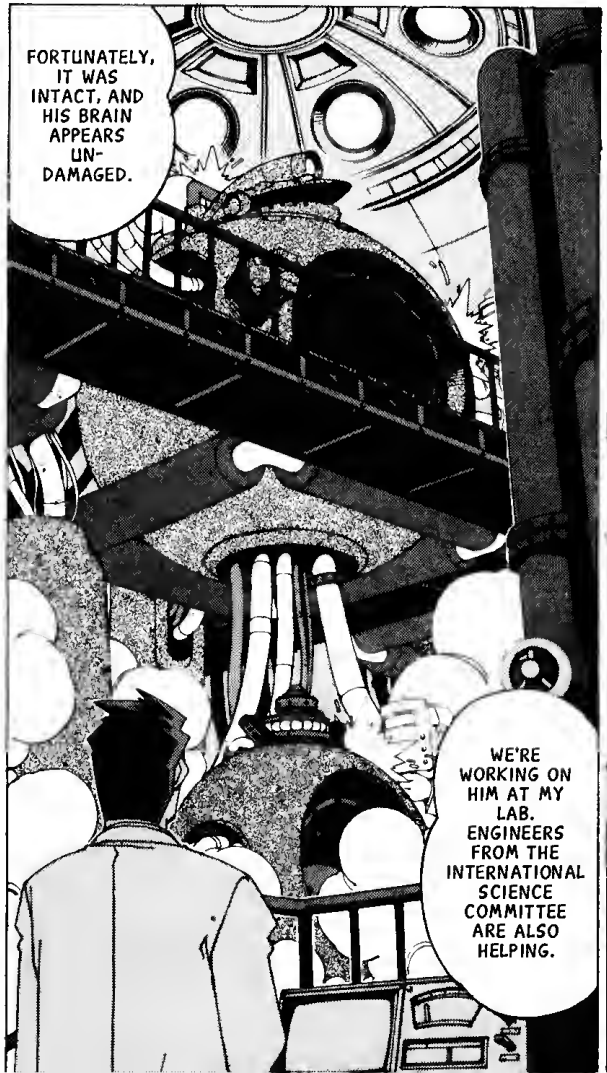

I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE FUNCTION OF THE BLACK BOX BELOW GORIKI'S NECK.
I ASSUMED GORIKI WAS CONTROLLED BY A DEVICE LIKE THE DIFFERENTIAL ENGINE DEVELOPED BY DR. HSU...

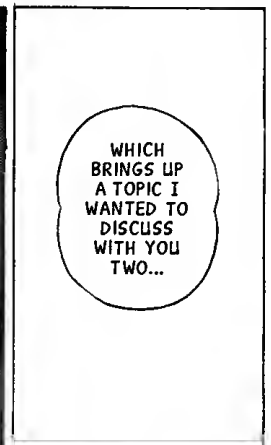

...BUT IT SEEMS HIS BRAIN WAS IN CHARGE OF THE MEGA-MATON!

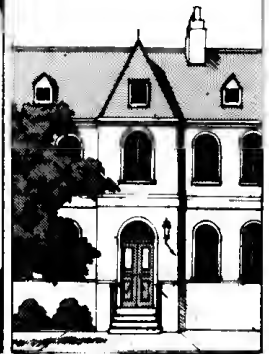
THAT WAS PART OF MY FATHER'S WILL.

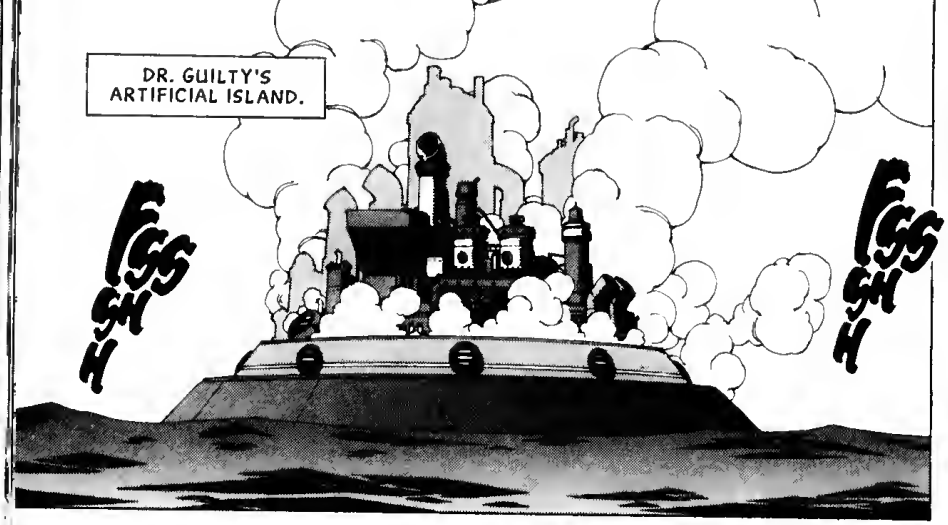

HIS FRIEND DR. AMANO TOOK CARE OF THE BRAIN TRANS-PLANT.
THE GENIUS SURGEON ...

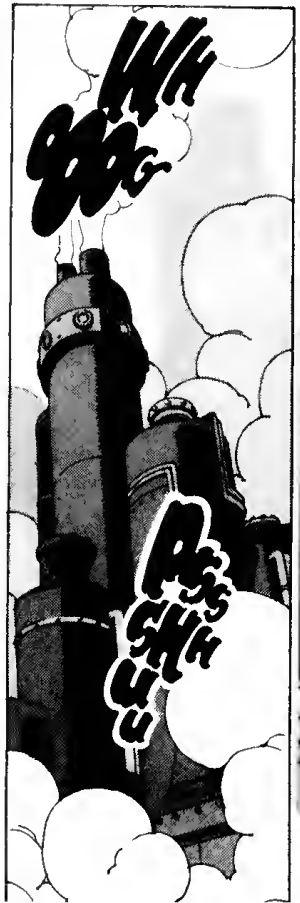

SO HOW IS DR. HSU?
LING LING GAVE ME THE KEY TO THE BLACK BOX.


FORTUNATELY, IT WAS INTACT, AND HIS BRAIN APPEARS UN-DAMAGED.
WE'RE WORKING ON HIM AT MY LAB. ENGINEERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE ARE ALSO HELPING.


WHICH BRINGS UP A TOPIC I WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU TWO...




DR. GUILTY'S ARTIFICIAL ISLAND.
FSSSHH
FSSSHH

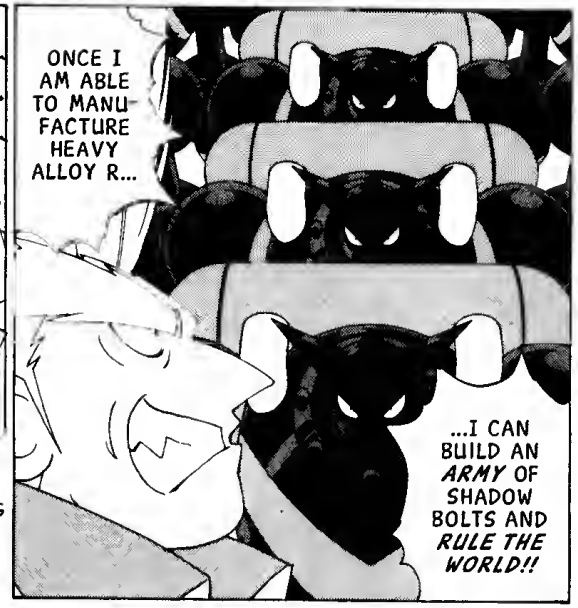

WH BOOG
PSSSHH

AT LAST, WE HAVE ENOUGH HEAVY ALLOY R.
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO EQUIP SHADOW BOLT No. 5 WITH ARMOR. HA HA HA HAAA!

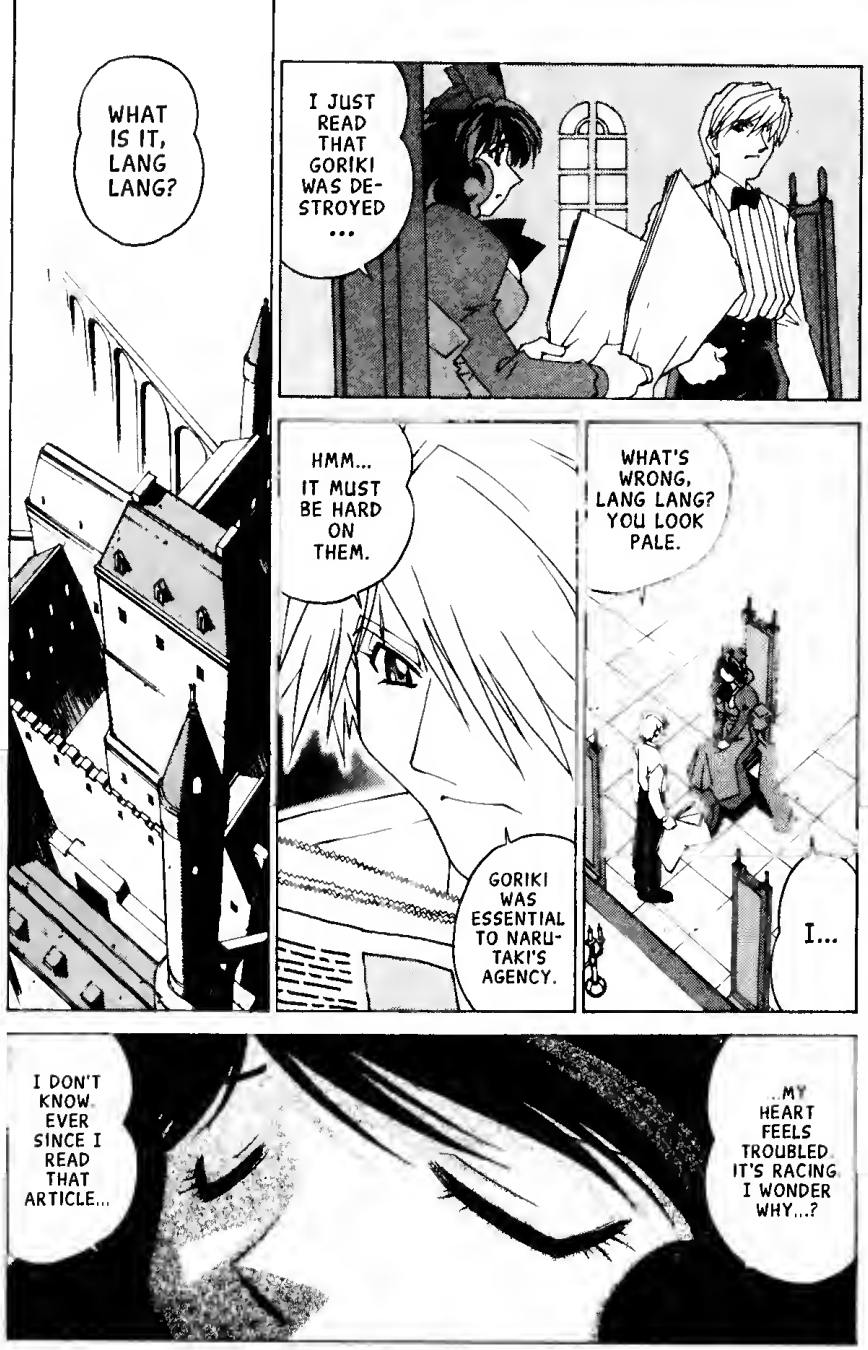
SHADOW BOLT No. 4, YOU'VE DONE SPLENDID WORK. AFTER ALL, YOU MANAGED TO DESTROY THE MIGHTY GORIKI!!

GORIKI'S BLUEPRINTS ARE FASCINATING. I MAY DESPISE HIM, BUT DR. HSU'S WORK IMPRESSES ME.
THEN AGAIN, HE IS MY CHOSEN RIVAL. HA HA HA HAAA.

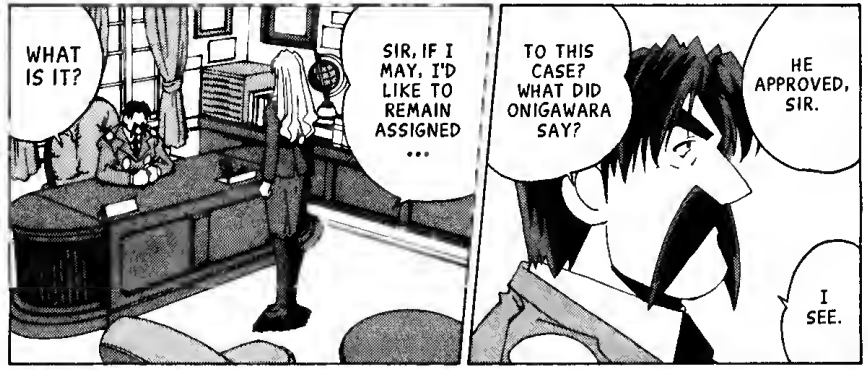
SHADOW BOLT No. 4, NOW YOU MUST ATTACK THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF BOGEN INDUSTRIAL.
TAKE THE PROCESSING MANUAL FOR HEAVY ALLOY R!


ONCE I AM ABLE TO MANU-FACTURE HEAVY ALLOY R...
...I CAN BUILD AN ARMY OF SHADOW BOLTS AND RULE THE WORLD!!

GO, SHADOW BOLT NO. 4 !!
TR RR RR


WHAT IS IT, LANG LANG?
I JUST READ THAT GORIKI WAS DESTROYED ...
HMM... IT MUST BE HARD ON THEM.
GORIKI WAS ESSENTIAL TO NARUTAKI'S AGENCY.
WHAT'S WRONG, LANG LANG? YOU LOOK PALE.
I...
I DON'T KNOW. EVER SINCE I READ THAT ARTICLE...
..MY HEART FEELS TROUBLED. IT'S RACING. I WONDER WHY...?

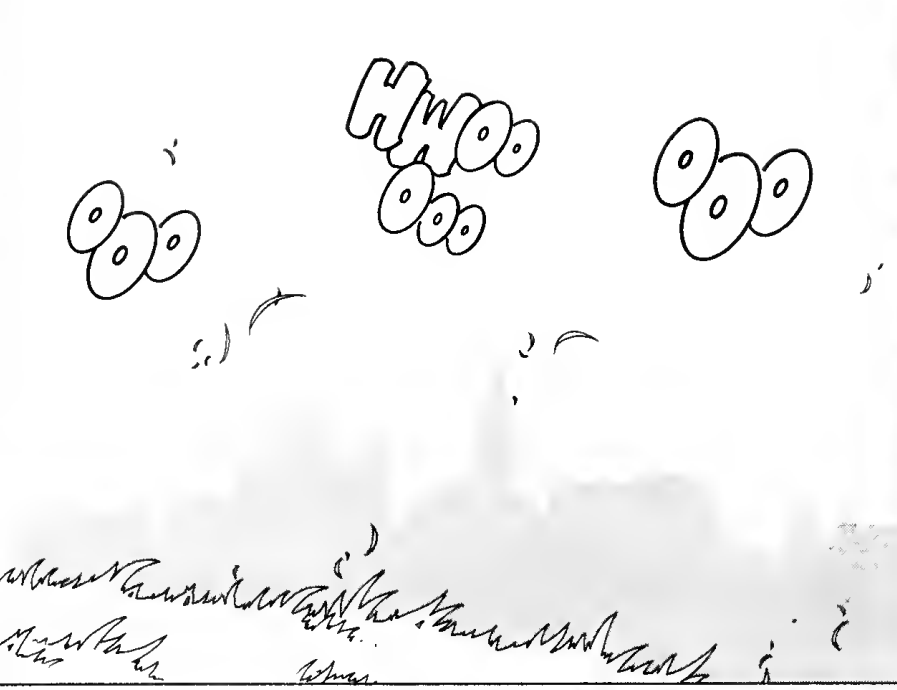
IT'S AMAZING DR. GUILTY BUILT A FAKE GORIKI!
GOOD WORK, ANNA.
SIR ...


WHAT IS IT?
SIR, IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO REMAIN ASSIGNED ...
TO THIS CASE? WHAT DID ONIGAWARA SAY?
HE APPROVED, SIR.
I SEE.

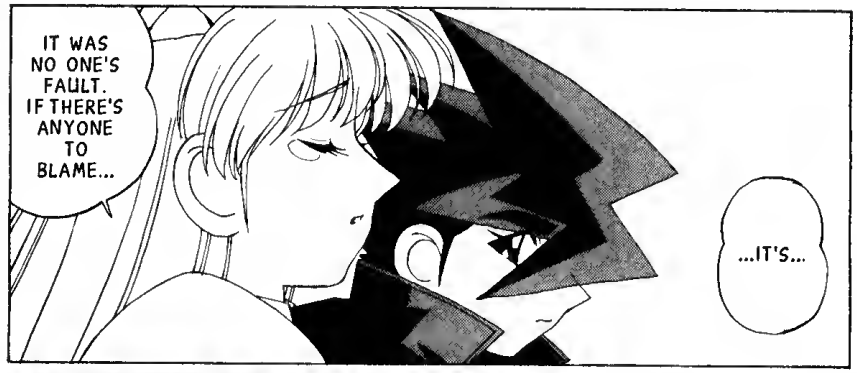
YOU'RE STILL NEW TO STEAM CITY. BY BEING WITH NARUTAKI, PERHAPS YOU'LL GET TO KNOW THE AREA BETTER.
I AGREE, SIR.
THEN WORK WITH ONIGAWARA.
TAK
YES, SIR!

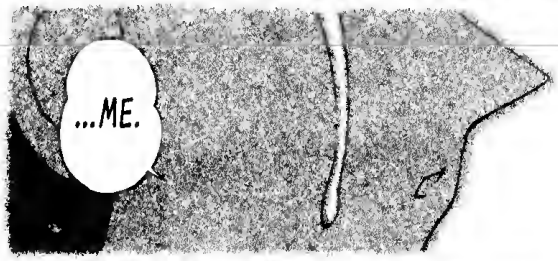
WHOOO
WHOOO

!!
RUSTLE

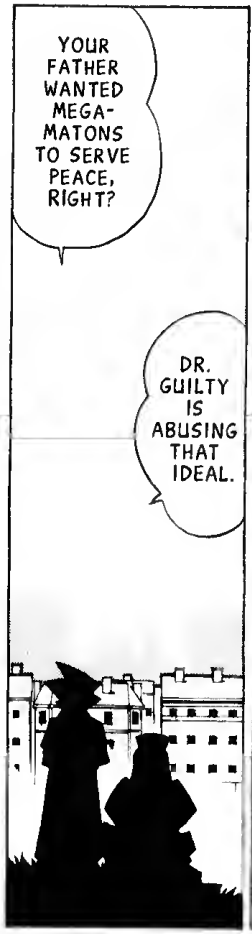

WHOOO
WHOOO

NARU-TAKI ...
LING LING ...
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO GORIKI.
OH, NO, YOU SHOULDN'T BE APOLOGIZ-ING.


IT WAS NO ONE'S FAULT. IF THERE'S ANYONE TO BLAME...
...IT'S...

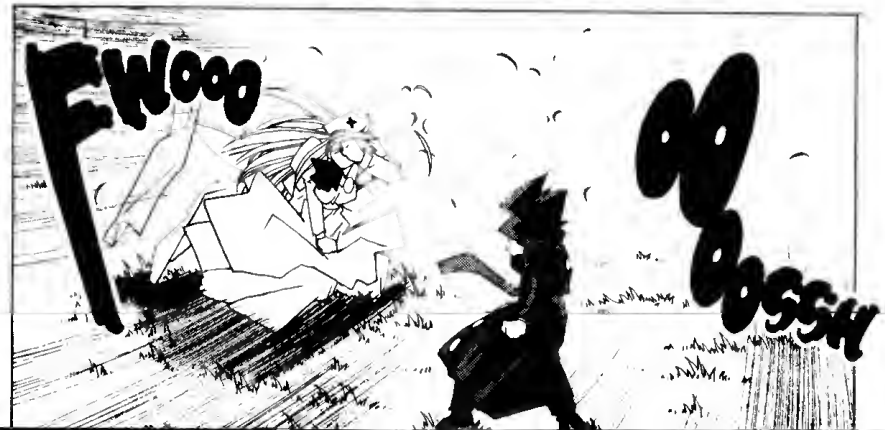

...ME.

I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING FATHER INTO GORIKI.
AND I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION HE'S IN NOW. I'M TO BLAME!
LING LING. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF! IF YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE THEN I AM, TOO!!
BUT, DR. HSU DIDN'T DIE, AND WE STILL HAVE TO CRUSH DR. GUILTY'S DIABOLICAL PLANS!

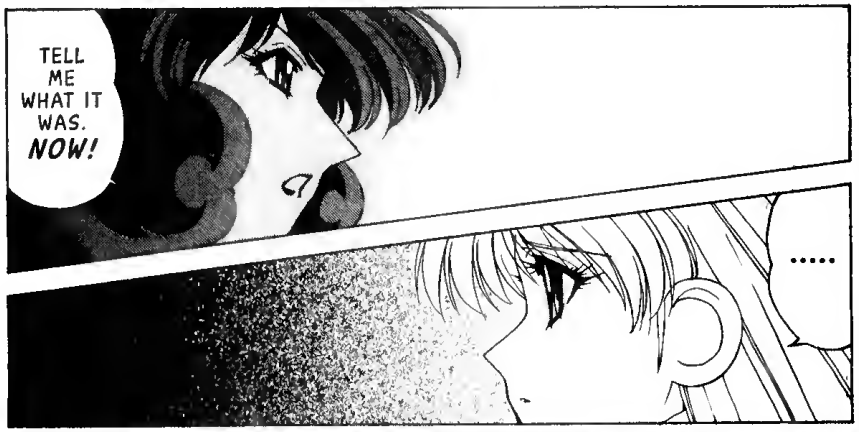

YOUR FATHER WANTED MEGA-MATONS TO SERVE PEACE, RIGHT?
DR. GUILTY IS ABUSING THAT IDEAL.

LET'S DEFEAT DR. GUILTY AND HIS SHADOW BOLT!
THAT'S WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD WANT.

YES!
YOU'RE RIGHT, NARU-TAKI!


FWOOO
OO OOSSH

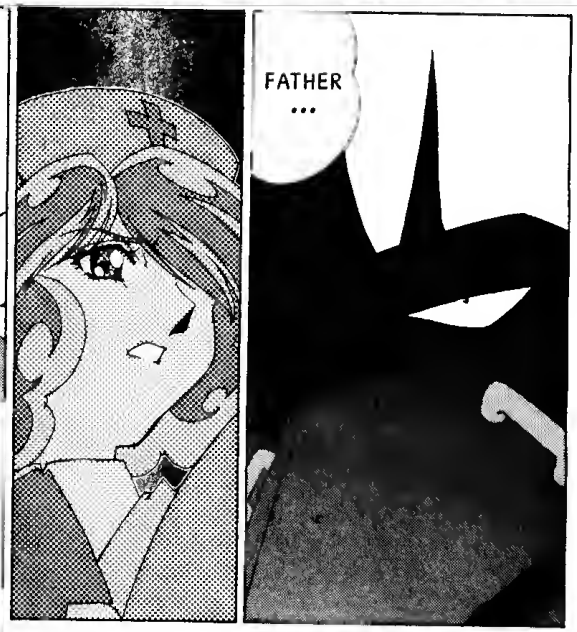
DID YOU AND FATHER HIDE SOMETHING FROM ME ABOUT GORIKI?
FSSSH
HH OSH
LANG LANG ...


TELL ME WHAT IT WAS. NOW!
.....

HWOO OOOO

I...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

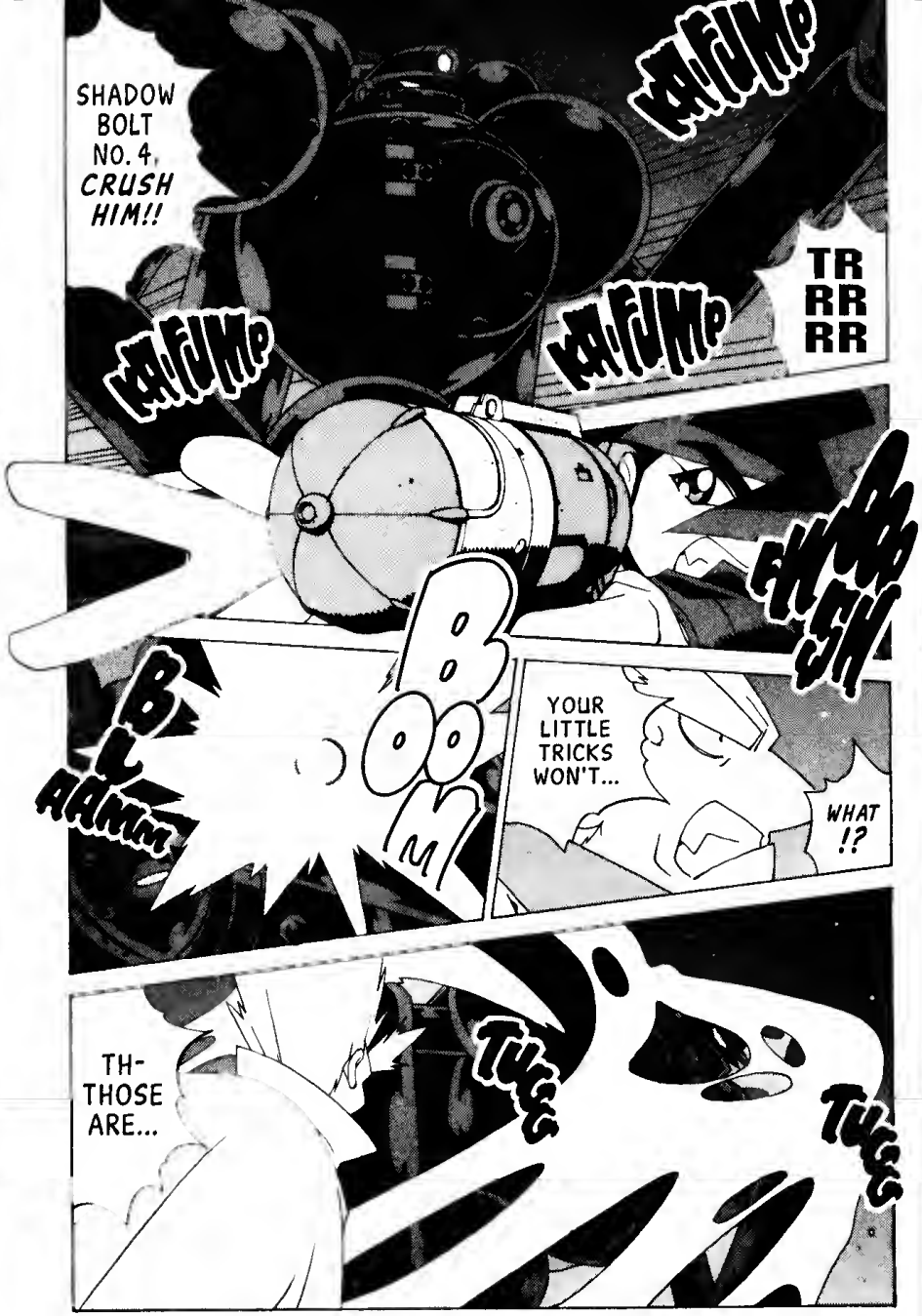
HOW COULD THAT BE...


FATHER ...

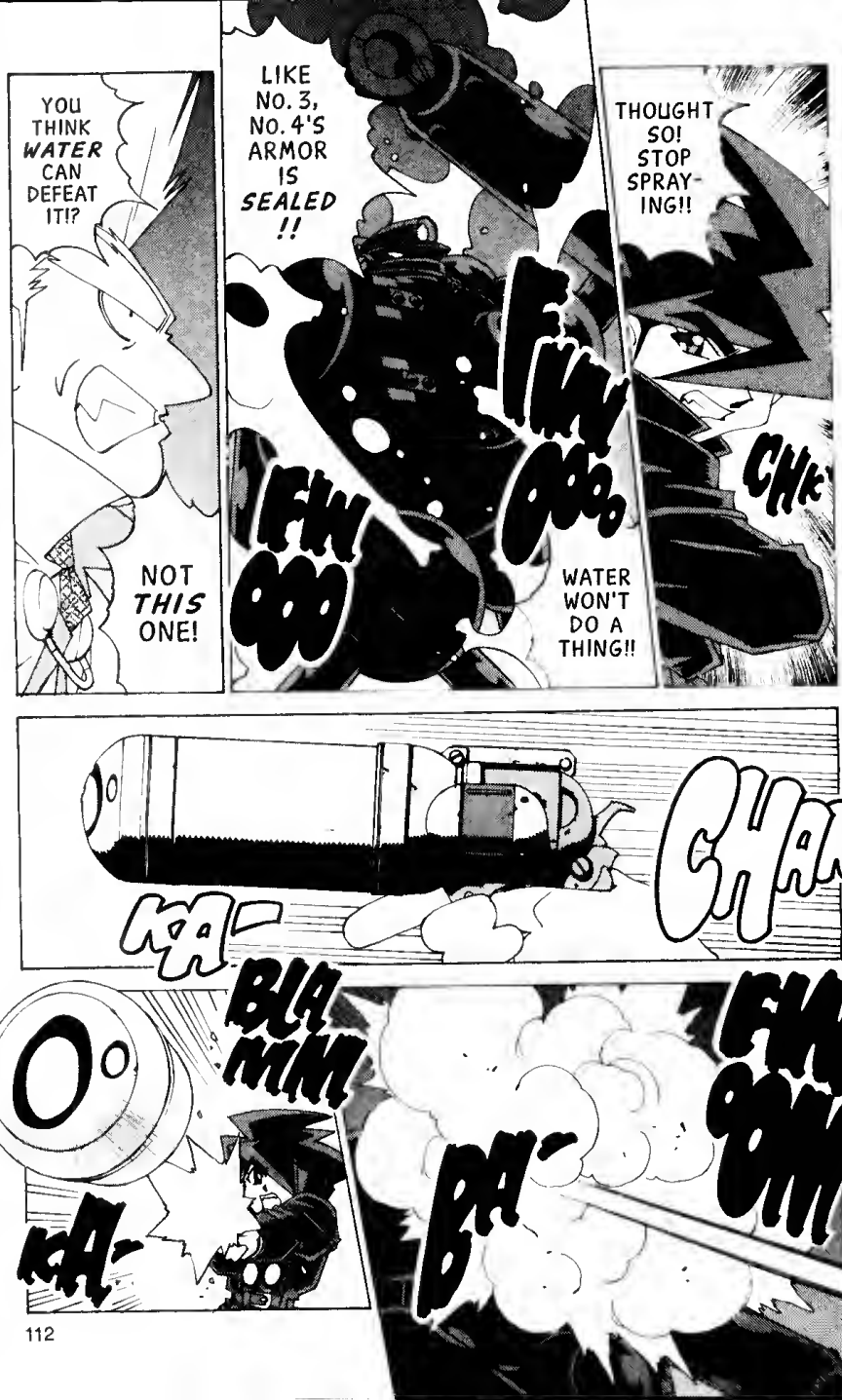
LANG LANG ...
.....

KA-
CLANK
HA HA HA HA HAAA! NOW THAT I HAVE THE PROCESSING MANUAL FOR HEAVY ALLOY R...
...I WILL BE INVINCIBLE!!

NO. 4, LET'S GO!
HM?
IT'S THE INEPT DETECTIVE DUO!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS. I CANNOT TOLERATE YOUR VILLAINY.
TURN YOURSELF IN, DR. GUILTY.
ARE YOU INSANE? YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR LIFE...
...THAN ABOUT CAPTURING ME.


SHADOW BOLT NO. 4, CRUSH HIM!!
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
TR RR RR
BOOM
BLAAMM
YOUR LITTLE TRICKS WON'T...
WHAT !?
TH-THOSE ARE...
TUCC
TUCC

...PASTE BULLETS !?
IT'S STUCK NOW!
LING LING!! ANNA !!
TMP
ALL RIGHT, MEN !
FUSH
SPRAY IT NOW !!
SH SSHH
PLASH
SSH SH
PLISH
PLISH


YOU THINK WATER CAN DEFEAT IT!?
NOT THIS ONE!
LIKE NO. 3, NO. 4'S ARMOR IS SEALED !!
FWOOO
FWOOO
THOUGHT SO! STOP SPRAY-ING!!
CHK
WATER WON'T DO A THING!!
CHAK
KA-
BLAMM
KA-
BA-
FWOOM

WHAT IS THIS !?
KRIK
KRIKLE
FSSSHH
A FREEZE BULLET !?
KRIK
KRRRINK
KRIK
THAT CAN'T BE!!
BUT IT IS.
BLAM
VIP
HUH ?
BOOOM
ARR RRR RGH!

WHAT WAS THAT?
NARU-TAKI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TOO BAD, NARU-TAKI!!!
FSSS SHH
MELT THE ICE, No. 4 !!

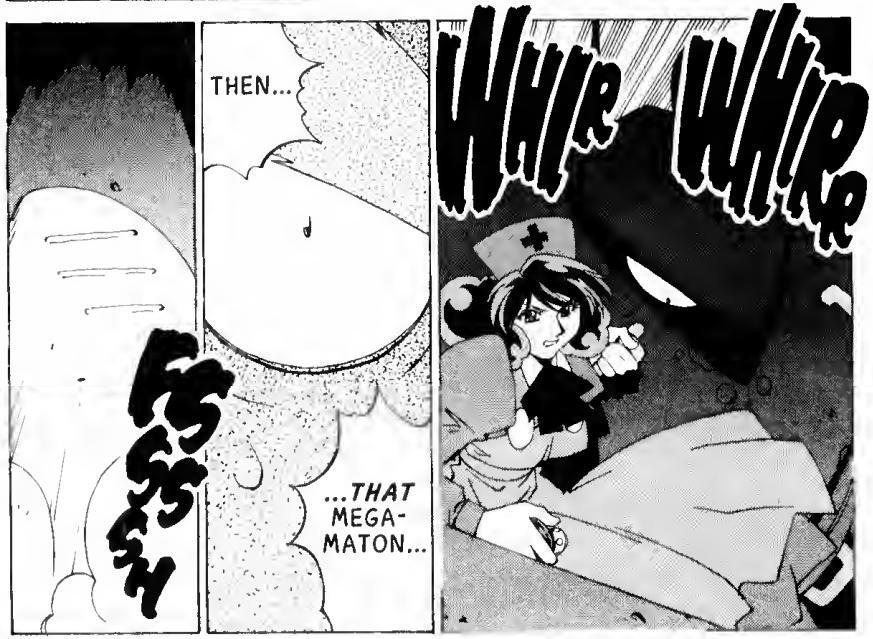
KA-BOOM
!!

BUT NARUTAKI HAS LOST HIS GUN !
SO HOW CAN THIS BE!? WHO...
WHOOOOOSH
!!

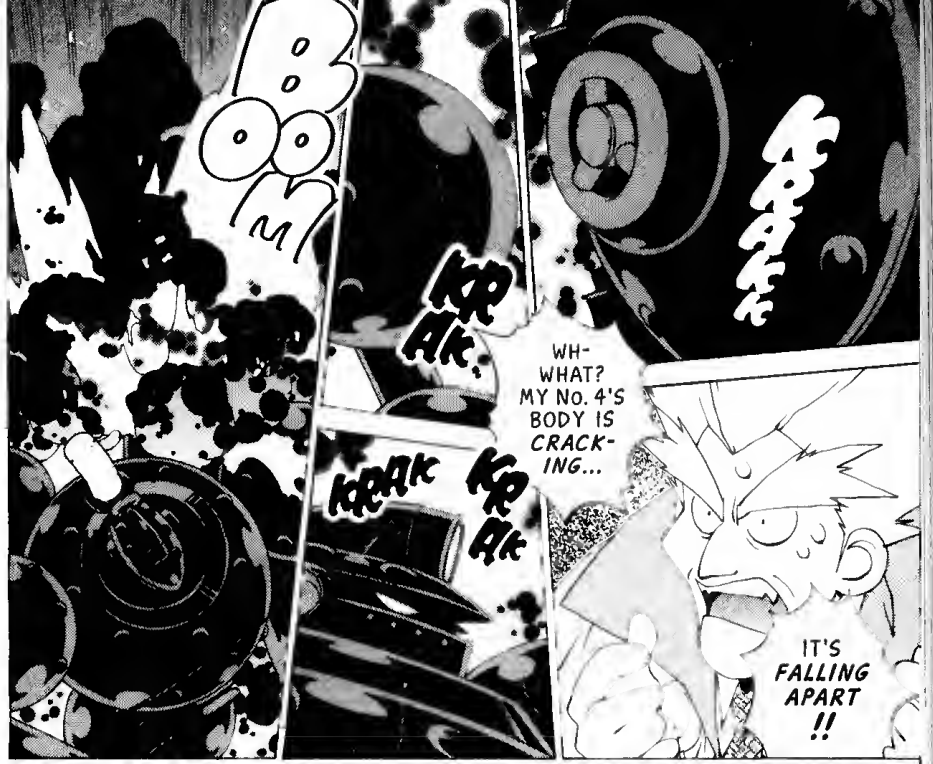
!!

WHIRR
WHIRR
BRM
BRM
BRM
THAT CAN'T BE!
A FLYING MEGA-MATON ...

LANG LANG.
WHAT!?
I SEE... DR. HSU HAS ANOTHER DAUGHTER !!


THEN...
...THAT MEGA-MATON...
WHIR WHIRR

FWOOSH
HWOO
...IS ALSO DR. HSU'S!!


BOOM
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
WH-WHAT? MY NO. 4'S BODY IS CRACK-ING...
IT'S FALLING APART !!

KYUR WHHAM
KRRSH

BYUWAAA
GORIKI !!
GORIKI !!

KA-CHING
HOW DO YOU LIKE GORIKI'S RESTORATION?
HIS ARM FLEW!
PEE-OOO
PEE-OOO
SO YOU COULD SAY DR. GUILTY WAS DEFEATED...
...BY HIS OWN INVENTION.
WAIT! WHERE IS DR. GUILTY !?
PEE-OOO
GU-OO-GH
THE DESIGN AND PARTS WERE TAKEN FROM SHADOW BOLT No. 1.
I'M SORRY. WE WENT AFTER HIM, BUT HE ESCAPED.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

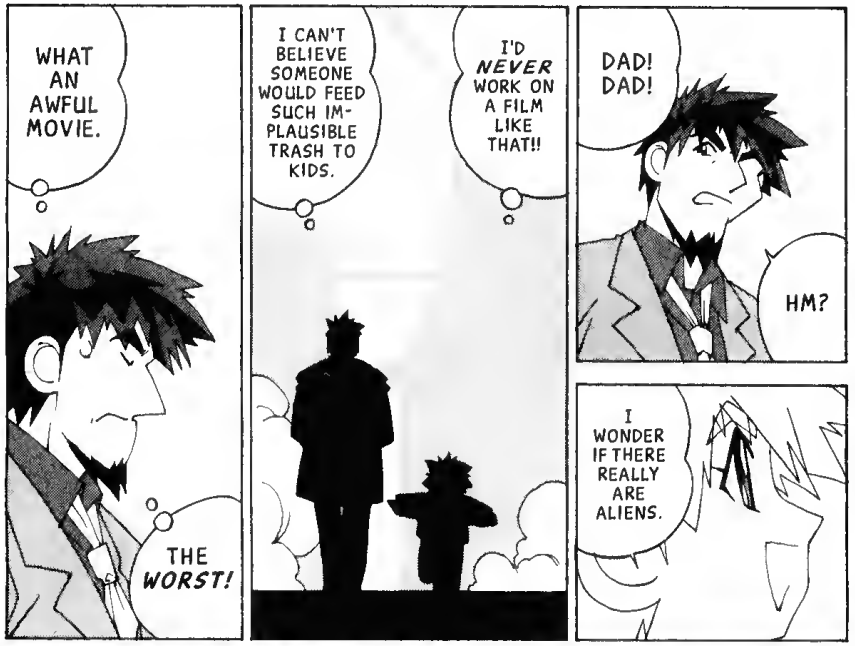
WHIRRR
IT'S NICE TO SEE GORIKI AGAIN.
THANK YOU, LANG LANG.
YOU SHOULD THANK LE BREAD.
FWOOSH
FSSSSH
IT'S HIS MEGA-MATON.

WHOOOO

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THAT, SOMEONE SHOT AWAY MY GUN...
BUT WHO?

CASE TWENTY-THREE, PART 1 **ALIEN INVASION!**

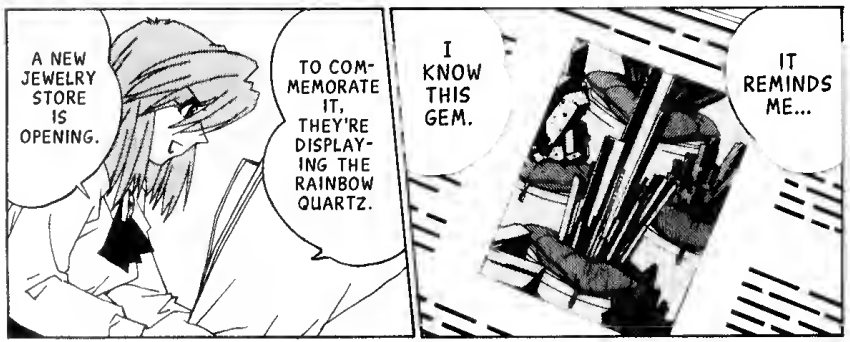
CASE TWENTY-THREE, PART 1 **ALIEN INVASION!**


WHAT AN AWFUL MOVIE.
THE WORST!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE WOULD FEED SUCH IMPLAUSIBLE TRASH TO KIDS.
I'D NEVER WORK ON A FILM LIKE THAT!!
DAD! DAD!
HM?
I WONDER IF THERE REALLY ARE ALIENS.
HUH?
LIKE IN THAT FILM ...
DO YOU THINK THERE ARE?

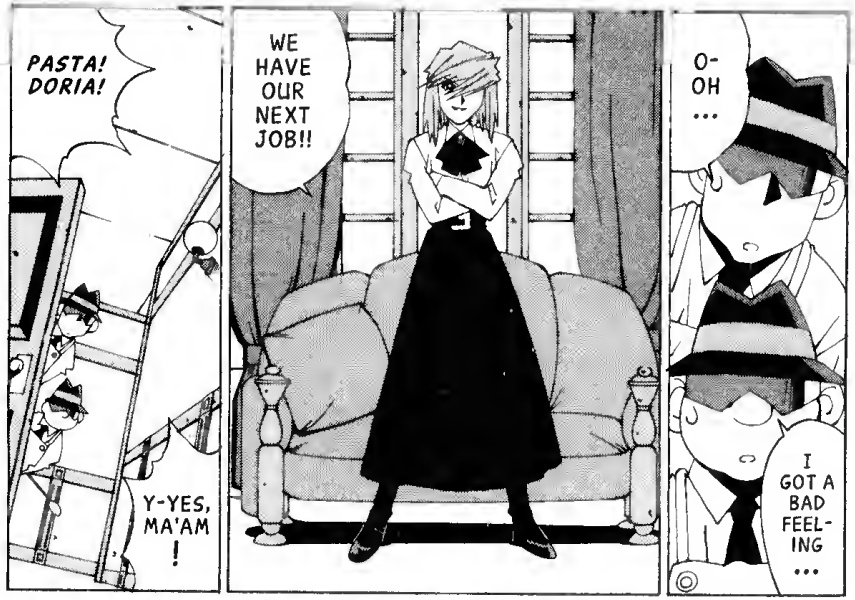
NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU MAKING, NARUTAKI?
OH, THIS IS A MODEL FROM THAT MOVIE, "ALIEN INVASION!!"
SO YOU BUILD THINGS BESIDES CARS AND AIRPLANES.
KLINK
WELL, YES. THIS ALIEN SHIP HAS MANY NOTABLE DESIGN FEATURES.
YES, YES, OF COURSE.
AW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT. AFTER ALL...
MORS
...THE MOVIE'S A BIG HIT.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME?
HUH?

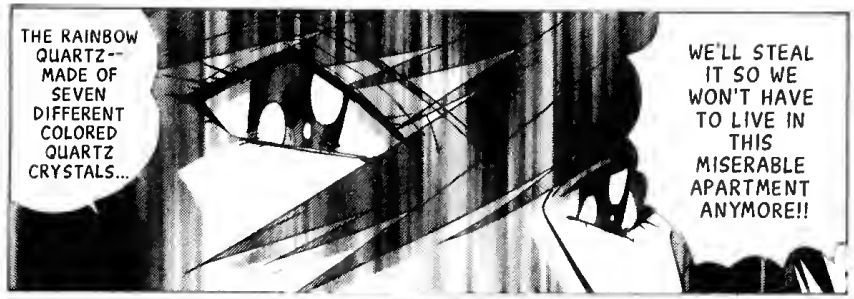
THING IS, I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT...
ARE YOU GOING OUT, LING LING?
I'M BORED, SO I'M OFF TO THE MOVIES.
UNG
UNN-UNG
UNG-UNN UNG (NOW I CAN'T BUILD MY KIT!)

HMM ...


A NEW JEWELRY STORE IS OPENING.
TO COMMEMORATE IT, THEY'RE DISPLAYING THE RAINBOW QUARTZ.
I KNOW THIS GEM.
IT REMINDS ME...

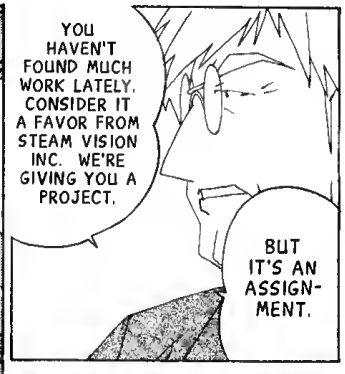
...OF THE CLEVER PLANS NARUTAKI HAS SPOILED.
THE HAUNTING OF THAT COUNT'S DAUGHTER AND THE DRAGON OF STEAM CITY... HA HA HA!
FSH
SSH


PASTA! DORIA!
Y-YES, MA'AM!
WE HAVE OUR NEXT JOB!!
O-OH ...
I GOT A BAD FEELING ...

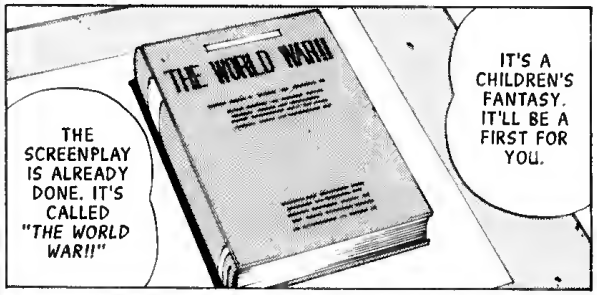

THE RAINBOW QUARTZ-- MADE OF SEVEN DIFFERENT COLORED QUARTZ CRYSTALS...
WE'LL STEAL IT SO WE WON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS MISERABLE APARTMENT ANYMORE!!

A NEW FILM !?

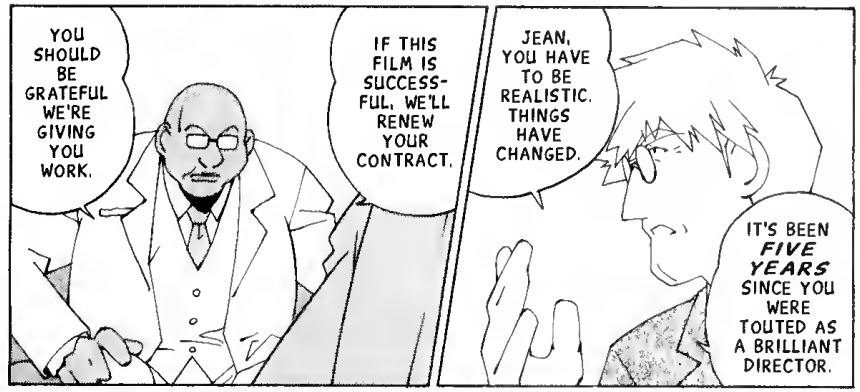
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M GIVING YOU ONE MORE CHANCE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?


YOU HAVEN'T FOUND MUCH WORK LATELY. CONSIDER IT A FAVOR FROM STEAM VISION INC. WE'RE GIVING YOU A PROJECT.
BUT IT'S AN ASSIGN-MENT.

AN ASSIGN-MENT ?


THE WORLD WAR
THE SCREENPLAY IS ALREADY DONE. IT'S CALLED "THE WORLD WAR!!"
IT'S A CHILDREN'S FANTASY. IT'LL BE A FIRST FOR YOU.

CH-CHIL-DREN'S FANTASY ?
ME? JEAN PAUL MAKING A CHILDREN'S FILM!?


YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL WE'RE GIVING YOU WORK.
IF THIS FILM IS SUCCESS-FUL, WE'LL RENEW YOUR CONTRACT.
JEAN, YOU HAVE TO BE REALISTIC. THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE YOU WERE TOUTED AS A BRILLIANT DIRECTOR.

YOUR FILMS COMBINE INNOVATIVE IDEAS WITH REVOLU-TIONARY IMAGES.
THEY'RE MESMER-IZING.
BUT YOUR STYLE HAS STAGNATED INSTEAD OF GROWING. SO HOW ABOUT IT, JEAN?
WHY NOT MAKE A FILM WITH THE VIEWERS' TASTES IN MIND?

YOU'RE ASKING ME TO CATER TO VIEWERS !?
THAT'S ABSURD. THE VIEWERS HAVE TO CATER TO MY STYLE, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!!

I MAKE THE THINGS *I* WANT TO MAKE!!
VIEWERS COME TO SEE *MY* CREATIONS! TIME AND MONEY ARE IRRELEVANT WHEN YOU'RE MAKING SOMETHING *GOOD*!!

THE FILMS I WANT TO MAKE WILL ALSO SATISFY THE VIEWERS!
THAT'S *MY* THEORY OF CINEMA!!
FILMS THAT *NO ONE WATCHES* ARE TRASH.
YOUR SO-CALLED *THEORY* IS LEADING TO YOUR DEMISE.
YOU HAVEN'T WORKED IN FIVE YEARS.
FILMS MADE JUST FOR VIEWERS' TASTES ARE *TRASH!*
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE STEAM VISION--
YOU'RE WRONG.

BY ONLY CHOOSING THE PROPOSALS YOU WANTED, YOU TURNED DOWN TOO MANY OTHERS.
YOU NARROWED YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TO THE POINT WHERE NO ONE WILL INVEST IN YOU.
VIEWERS BECAME *BORED* OF YOUR STYLE...
...WITH EVERY NEW RELEASE.
THINK IT OVER. WE NEED AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW.
OUR SPONSORS ARE WAITING.
BRRU UMM
BRUM
DAD ...

SO I'M REDUCED TO MAKING A *CHILDREN'S* MOVIE...?
GIVE ME A BREAK !!

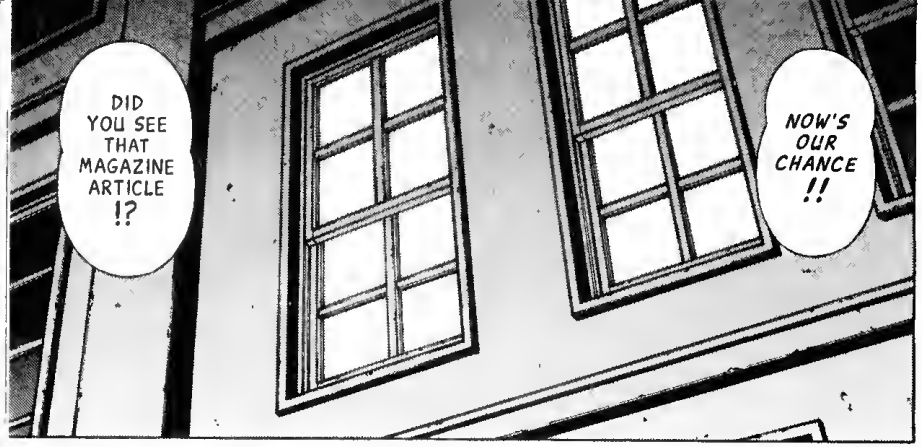
"THE WORLD WAR!!"

SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

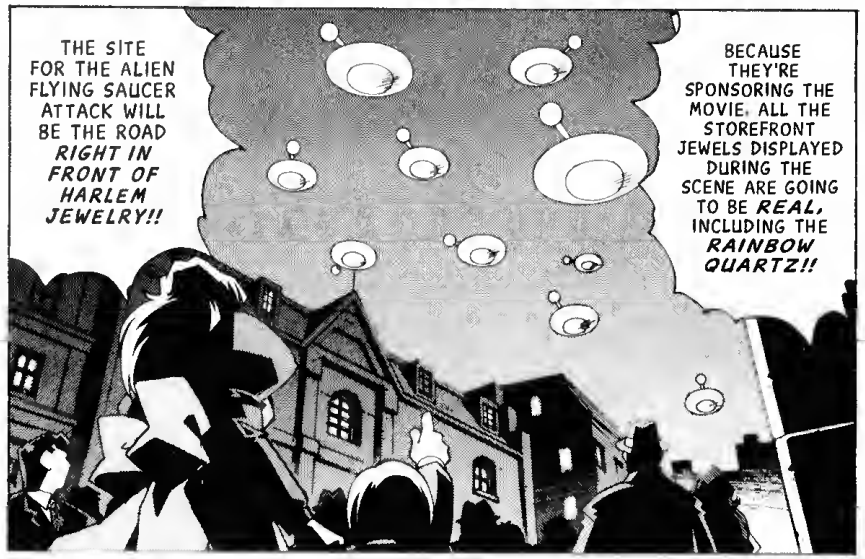
HMM
HAR UMPH
SO HE ACCEP-TED.
HE HAD NO CHOICE. HE'S SUPPORT-ING A KID ON HIS OWN.
HOPEFULLY, THIS'LL BE A WAKE-UP CALL.
LOOK, DAD, THEY TALK ABOUT YOUR MOVIE IN HERE!
HMM? OH YEAH ?

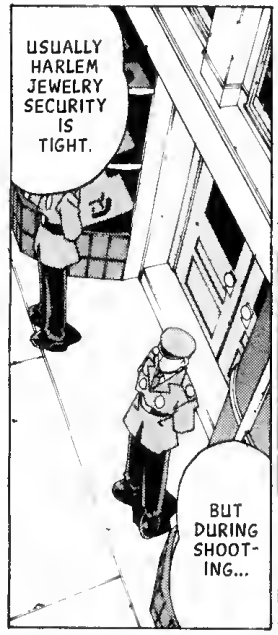
Directed by	Jean Paul
Starring	Wiseman Youth
	Lisa Bennet
	Adrian Kowalski
Produced by	Steam Vision
Sponsored by	Harlem Jewelry

YOU SURE LOOK GRUMPY!
HA HA HA! I CAN'T HELP IT.
WOW! IT'S SO COOL!
HM ?
YOU'RE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT ALL THIS?
HUH ?
WELL, YEAH! I CAN BRAG TO MY FRIENDS...
...ABOUT HOW AWE-SOME MY DAD IS.


DID YOU SEE THAT MAGAZINE ARTICLE !?
NOW'S OUR CHANCE !!

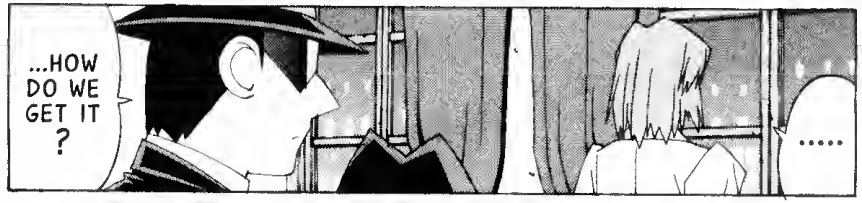
WHAT IS IT, BOSS?
WE GOT THE STORE LAYOUT FOR HARLEM JEWELRY FOR YOU.
THE SPONSOR FOR THIS NEW FILM IS HARLEM JEWELRY.
THE MAIN LOCATION FOR IT IS STEAM CITY!


THE SITE FOR THE ALIEN FLYING SAUCER ATTACK WILL BE THE ROAD *RIGHT IN FRONT OF HARLEM JEWELRY!!*
BECAUSE THEY'RE SPONSORING THE MOVIE. ALL THE STOREFRONT JEWELS DISPLAYED DURING THE SCENE ARE GOING TO BE *REAL*, INCLUDING THE *RAINBOW QUARTZ!!*

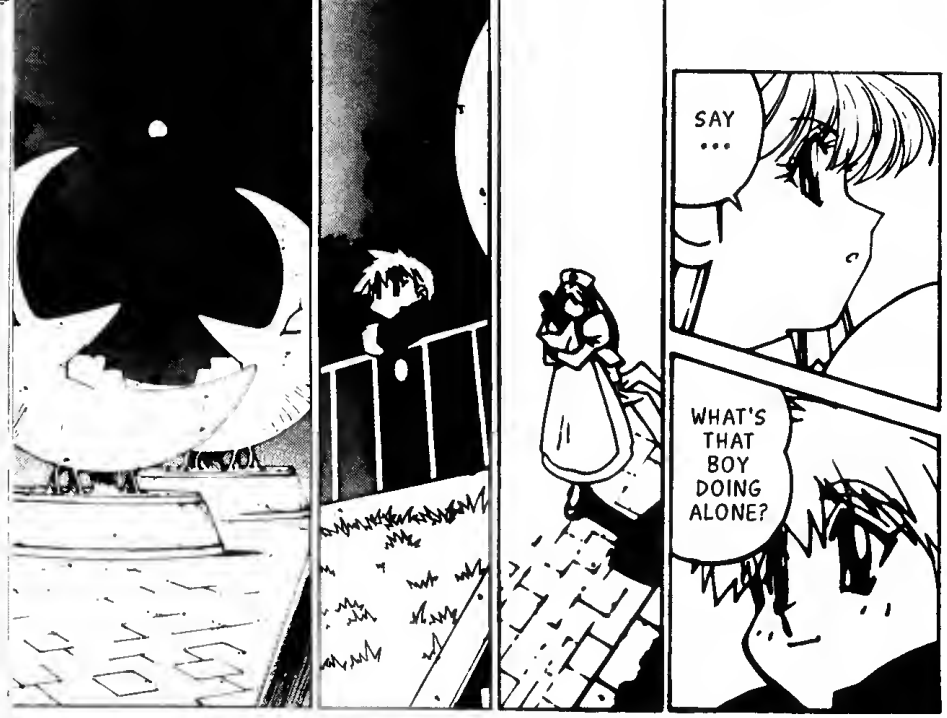

USUALLY HARLEM JEWELRY SECURITY IS TIGHT.
BUT DURING SHOOT-ING...

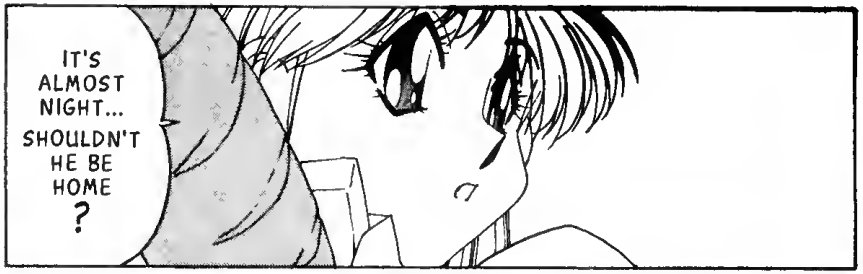
...THE STORE GUARDS WILL ALL BE *EXTRAS!*
HA HA HA HA!

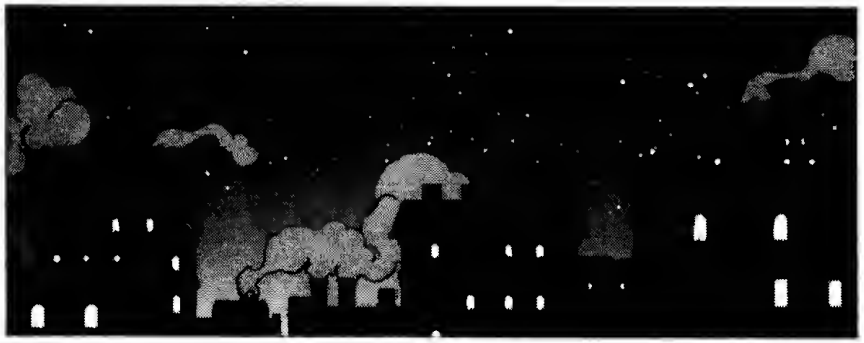
WE'LL BE THERE SOON, RAINBOW QUARTZ.
YEAH, BOSS.
BUT, BOSS...

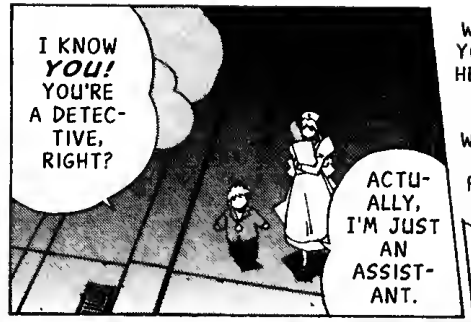

...HOW DO WE GET IT ?
.....

THAT'S *EASY.* WE'LL BE IN THE MOVIE!


SAY ...
WHAT'S THAT BOY DOING ALONE?


IT'S ALMOST NIGHT... SHOULDN'T HE BE HOME ?

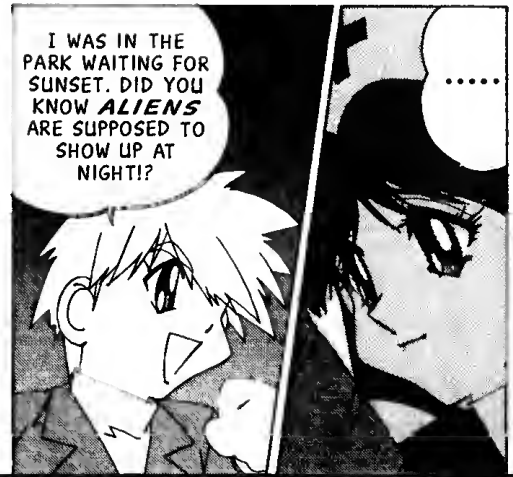



I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE A DETECTIVE, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I'M JUST AN ASSISTANT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALONE IN THE PARK? WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?

I DON'T HAVE A MOM. SHE DIED AFTER HAVING ME...
OH... I'M SORRY, I...

MY DAD COMES HOME LATE FROM WORK.
WHAT ABOUT DINNER ?
VROOM
VRRRM
I EAT ALONE. SOMEONE DELIVERS THE MEALS, THOUGH.


I WAS IN THE PARK WAITING FOR SUNSET. DID YOU KNOW ALIENS ARE SUPPOSED TO SHOW UP AT NIGHT!?
.....

I HAVE AN IDEA!
HM ?
URR... WHEN'LL LING LING BE BACK?
I'M SO HUNGRY.
GRRR

WOW! THIS IS AWE-SOME!
WOO
WOO
WOO
WOO
YOU CAN'T MISS ANY ALIENS FROM UP HERE.

ISN'T IT GREAT ?
I NEVER BEEN TO THE TOP OF THE CLOCK TOWER !!
UH-HUH !

DO YOU BELIEVE IN ALIENS ?
HM? I DON'T KNOW.

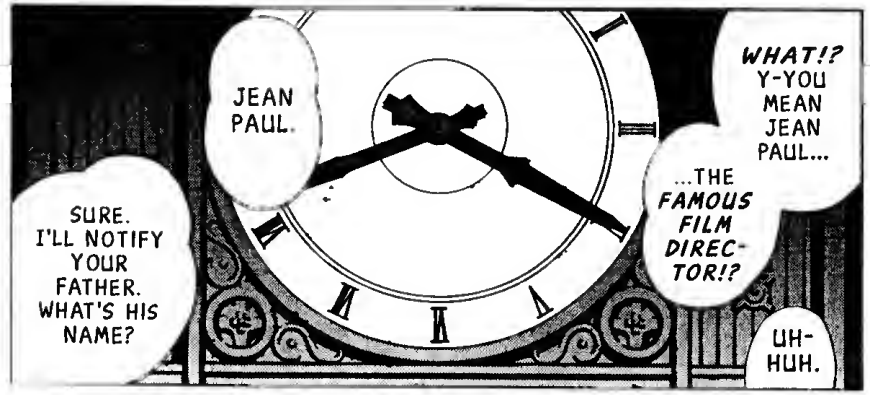
I DO. SOME-DAY, THEY'LL COME TO MEET ME.
I'M SURE OF IT!

GRRR
OH!

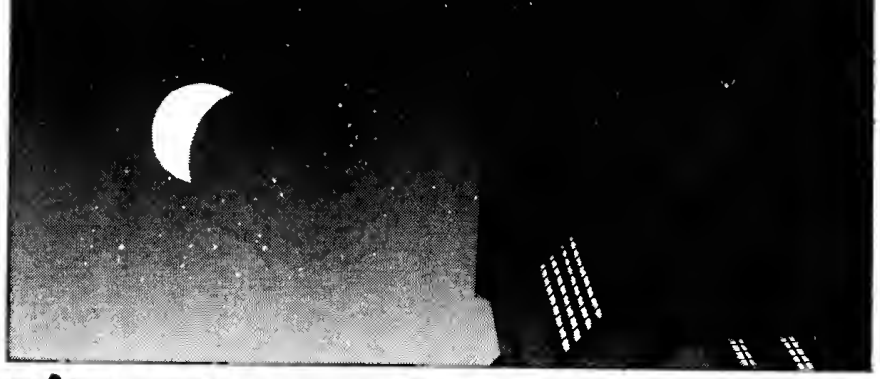
ARE YOU HUNGRY ?
UH-HUH.

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US FOR DINNER ?

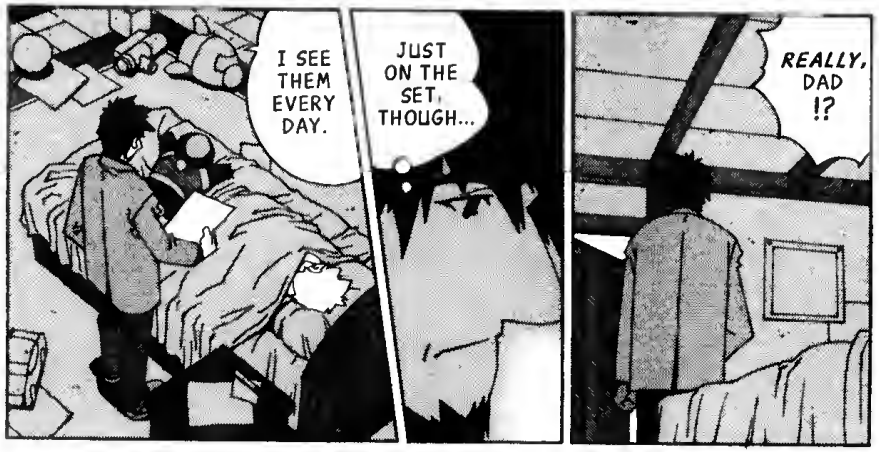
CAN I!?


JEAN PAUL.
SURE. I'LL NOTIFY YOUR FATHER. WHAT'S HIS NAME?
WHAT!? Y-YOU MEAN JEAN PAUL...
...THE FAMOUS FILM DIREC-TOR!?
UH-HUH.

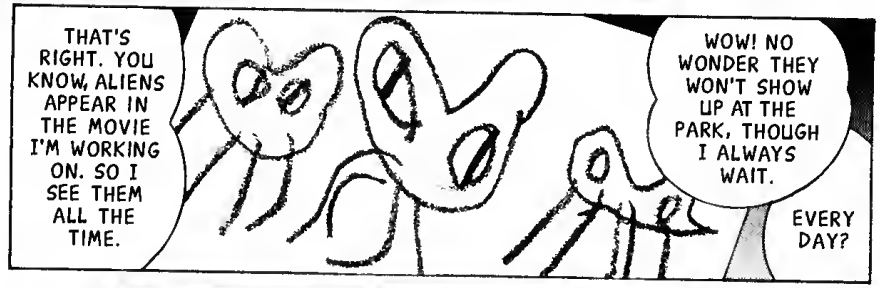
LING LING, WHERE ARE YOU?
KAWA-KUBO'S OUT, TOO.
RRR
GRRR



KA-CHI-AK
ALIENS, HUH ...
YOU'RE SO CRAZY ABOUT THEM, ALAN.


I SEE THEM EVERY DAY.
JUST ON THE SET, THOUGH...
REALLY, DAD !?

HUH ?
YOU REALLY SEE THEM EVERY DAY!?
A-ALAN ...
W-WELL, I MEANT...
...AT WORK.
WORK ?


THAT'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW, ALIENS APPEAR IN THE MOVIE I'M WORKING ON. SO I SEE THEM ALL THE TIME.
WOW! NO WONDER THEY WON'T SHOW UP AT THE PARK, THOUGH I ALWAYS WAIT.
EVERY DAY?

THAT'S RIGHT. I WAIT UNTIL DARK FOR THEM TO COME.
BUT IF THEY'RE WORKING WITH YOU, THEY MUST BE TOO BUSY.
ALAN ...
SO YOU REALLY WANT TO MEET THEM?
UH-HUH!

ALL RIGHT, THEN. I PROMISE YOU'LL MEET THEM ON YOUR BIRTHDAY NEXT MONTH.
REALLY!? YOU PROMISE !?
YES.

WOW! THAT'S GREAT, ALAN!
UH-HUH! PRETTY AWE-SOME, HUH?

WE'LL HAVE A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR YOU THEN!
REALLY !?

ALAN, LET'S GO.
OKAY! SEE YOU, LING LING!

VRRRM
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE FROM THE NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY!
HA HA! PRETTY COOL, HUH?

EVERYONE'S REALLY NICE TO ME. I WISH I HAD A MOM LIKE LING LING!
WHAT !?
DON'T BE ABSURD !

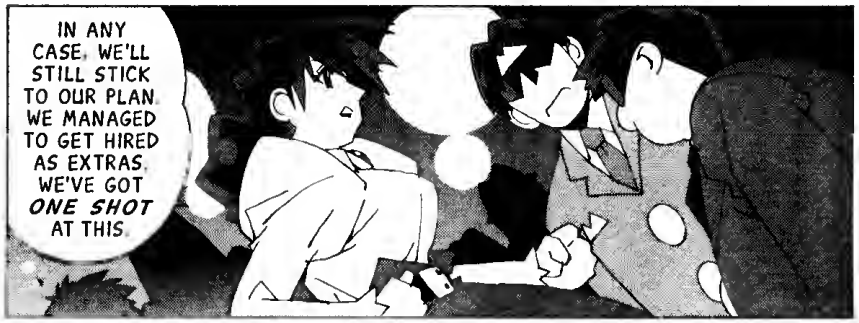
YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANYTHING? WE'RE NEAR YOUR SCHOOL.
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
I'M FINE, BUT ARE YOU OKAY, DAD?

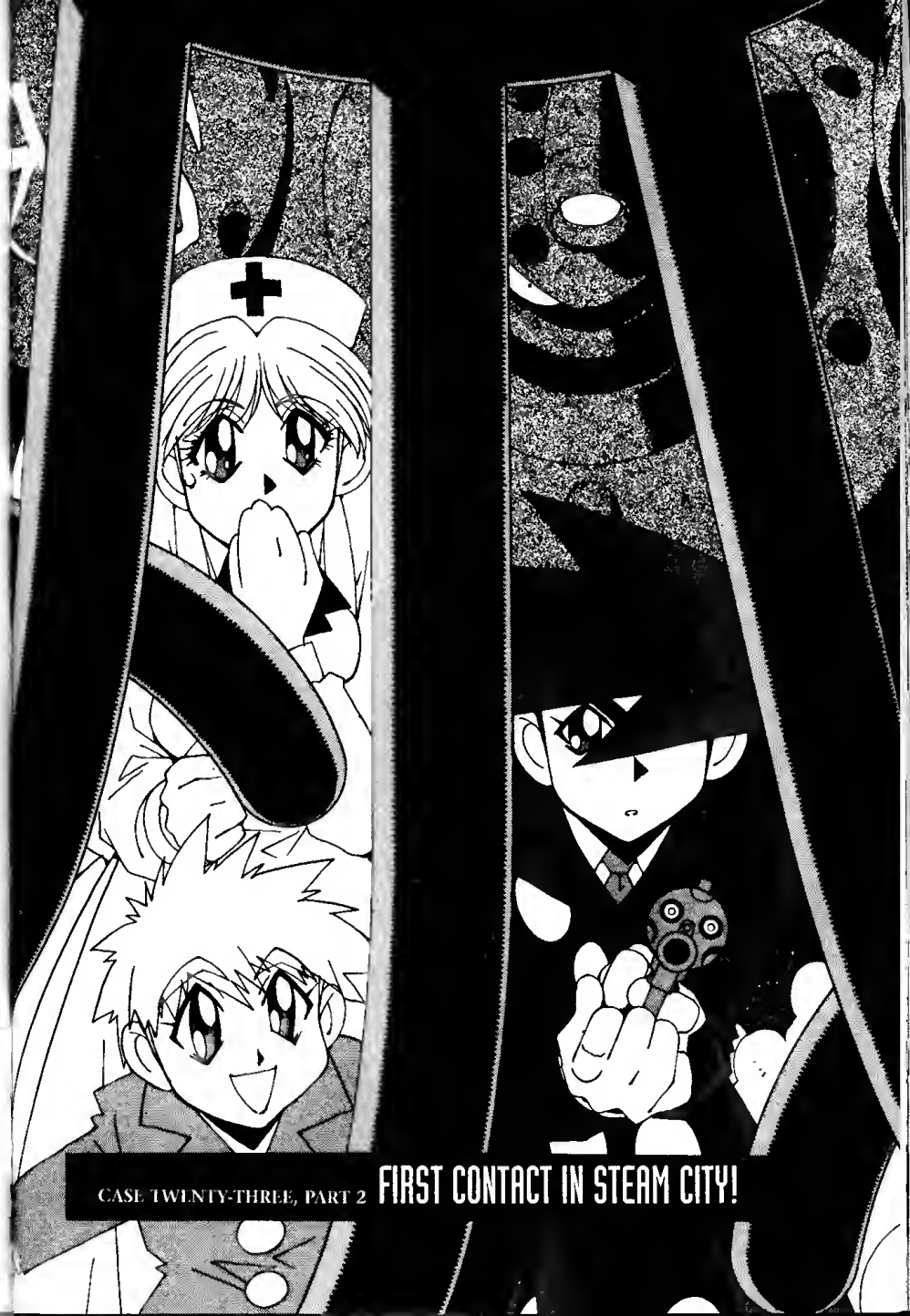
ALIENS DON'T EXIST.
OUCH!
YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE IMAGIN-ATIVE.
IF YOU BELIEVE, THEN THEY EXIST.
HIS FATHER INVITED US TO VISIT THEM ON THE SET.
LET'S GO.
WHAT ?
ANNA ASKED ME TO VISIT BECAUSE THEY'RE SHOOTING AT HARLEM JEWELRY, THE FILM'S SPONSOR.
SHE WANTS TO BE SURE THE SECURITY THERE IS TIGHT.

WHOOO
OOOO
.....
IT'S SO SPOOKY TONIGHT, MAYBE REAL ALIENS WILL COME.
THEY WON'T.
ALL RIGHT, THEN, I NEED YOU EXTRAS TO GET READY.
YES, SIR.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT TO GET THE RAINBOW QUARTZ...
IT WAS THE FIRST CASE I TOOK ON...
...HERE IN STEAM CITY.
THE STRING OF EVENTS BECAME KNOWN AS "THE RAINBOW QUARTZ INCIDENT."
HEY, NARU-TAKI! GET OUT OF THE SHOT!
O-OH! SORRY!

N-NARU-TAKI!?
COME ON, NARU-TAKI!
HA HA. I'M SO SORRY.
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
.....
B-B-BOSS ...
CURSES! WHY DOES THAT BOY ALWAYS HAVE TO...



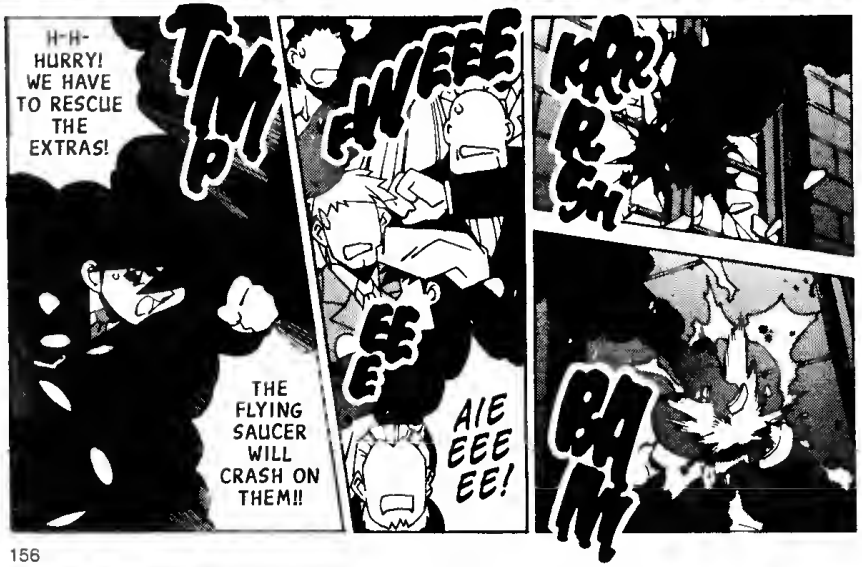


CASE TWENTY-THREE, PART 2 FIRST CONTACT IN STEAM CITY!

AHHH
AHHH
AHHH
F-F-
FLYING
SAUCERS
!!
AHHH
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
AIE
EEE
EE!
AHH
H-
HELP!
WHUMP
AAA
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WAHHH
ALIENS
!!
COME ON!
WE HAVE
TO GET TO
THE FRONT
OF THE
JEWELRY
STORE!!
I-I
KNOW...
BUT...
OH!
AHH
AIE
EEE
EE!

HMM
...
WHY
THE BIG
SIGH
?
WELL,
IT'S JUST
SEEING
THE
ACTUAL
FILMING
...
MAYBE
MOVIES
ARE
BEST
SEEN IN
THEATERS.
YAAAA
.....
YOU CAN BE
SO GRUMPY.
THAT'S WHY
PEOPLE
SAY YOU'RE
CRANKY
LIKE AN
OLD MAN.
WHO
SAID
THAT
?
WHUMP
DORIA
!!
YES,
MA'AM
!!
KUK
WHUMP
WHUMP

BOOO
BiM
!!?
FW
EEE


H-H-HURRY! WE HAVE TO RESCUE THE EXTRAS!
TMP
THE FLYING SAUCER WILL CRASH ON THEM!!
GWEEE
EEE
AIE EEE EE!
KRRRSH
BA IM!

STOP! STOP !!
GWOOGH
HOW COULD A FLYING SAUCER EXPLODE !?

WE HAVE TO GUIDE THE EXTRAS AND CIVILIANS OUT OF HERE.
AHHH
AND CALL FOR FIRE TRUCKS!

GOOD! THE SECURITY HAS LEFT!!
GWOOGH
OOO
NOW !!

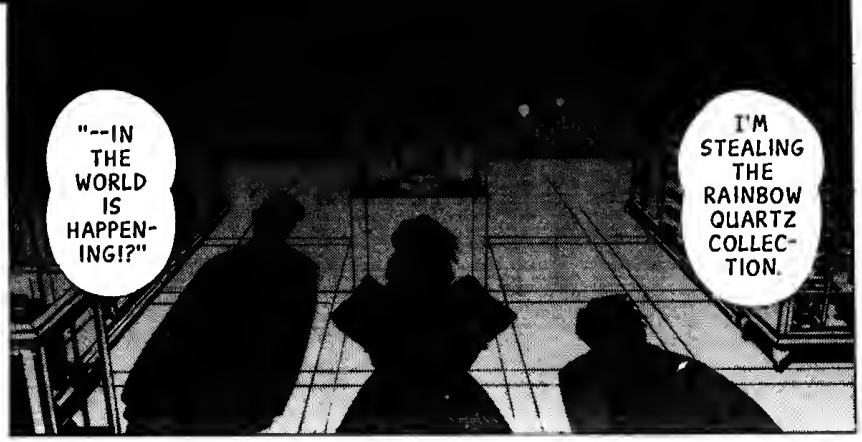
KRRRGH

LING LING! I NEED YOU TO TREAT THE INJURED!
I'M ON IT!
TMP

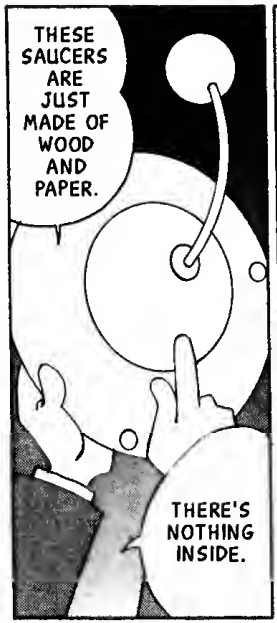
GH
OOGH

HOW... HOW COULD THIS BE HAPPEN-ING!?
GWOO
BLAST !!

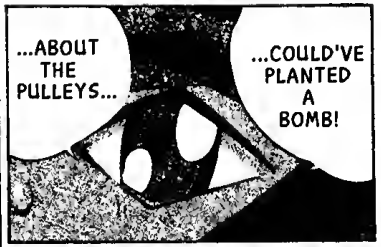
WHAT IS THIS !?
I HAVE NO IDEA, NARUTAKI!
WHAT--
OOOGH

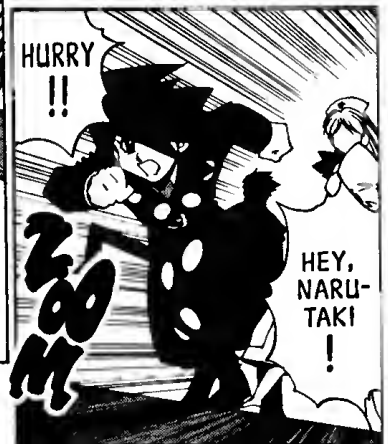

"--IN THE WORLD IS HAPPEN-ING!?"
I'M STEALING THE RAINBOW QUARTZ COLLEC-TION.

NOW GO! I WANT YOU TO BE CALM AND CAREFUL.
TJI
YES, MA'AM !


THESE SAUCERS ARE JUST MADE OF WOOD AND PAPER.
THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE.

THEY'RE MOVED BY A SET OF PULLEYS ON THE ROOF.
SO ANY-ONE WHO KNOWS...


...ABOUT THE PULLEYS...
...COULD'VE PLANTED A BOMB!


HURRY !!
ZOOM
HEY, NARU-TAKI !

GHH
OOO
OOOO
OOO
OOOH

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE ALL SET!
WE TOOK ALL THE OTHER JEWELRY, TOO!
ANOTHER PERFECT JOB !!

TIME TO LEAVE, BOYS!
YES--

.....
KORE-GA
BA!

PYUH!

KRAK
AIE EEE EEE EE!
OH, NO !!
WOW! THIS IS SO COOL!
GW OOO SH
DON'T PANIC !!
THE ALIEN ATTACK IS BURNING THE CITY!

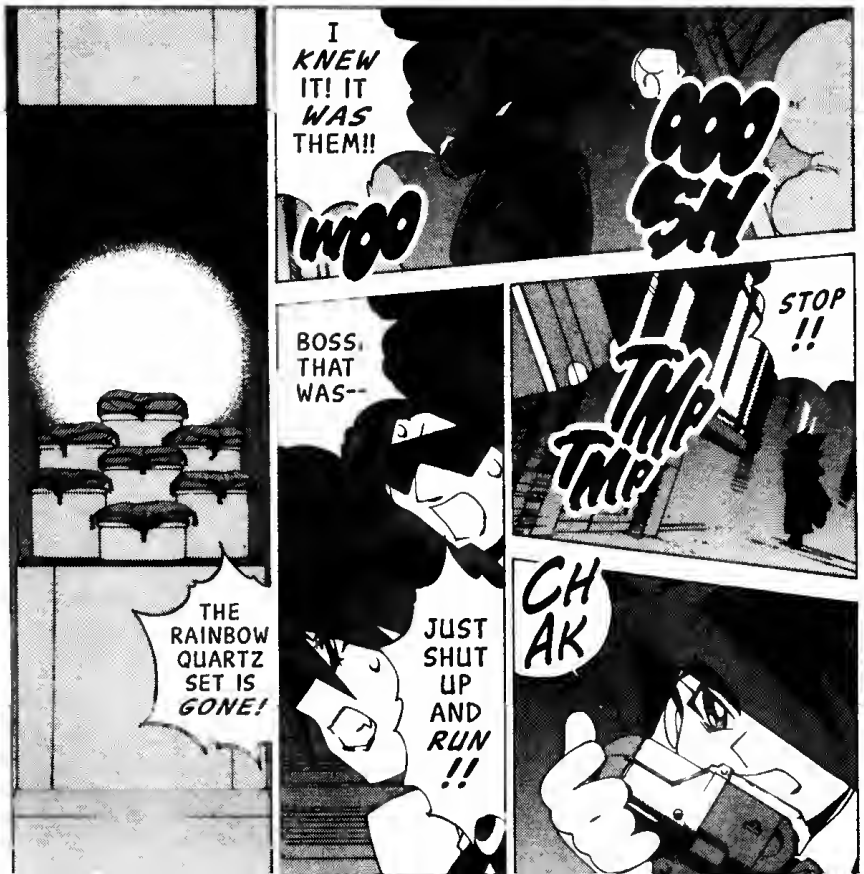
DAD'S FILM IS GONNA BE...
GW OOO
OOOOO
...PRETTY AMAZING!

WH-WHAT DO WE DO ?
GW OOOOUH
I'M OUTTA HERE!
TMP
THE FIRE HAS GONE OUT OF CON-TROL...
TMP TMP
GW OOO GH

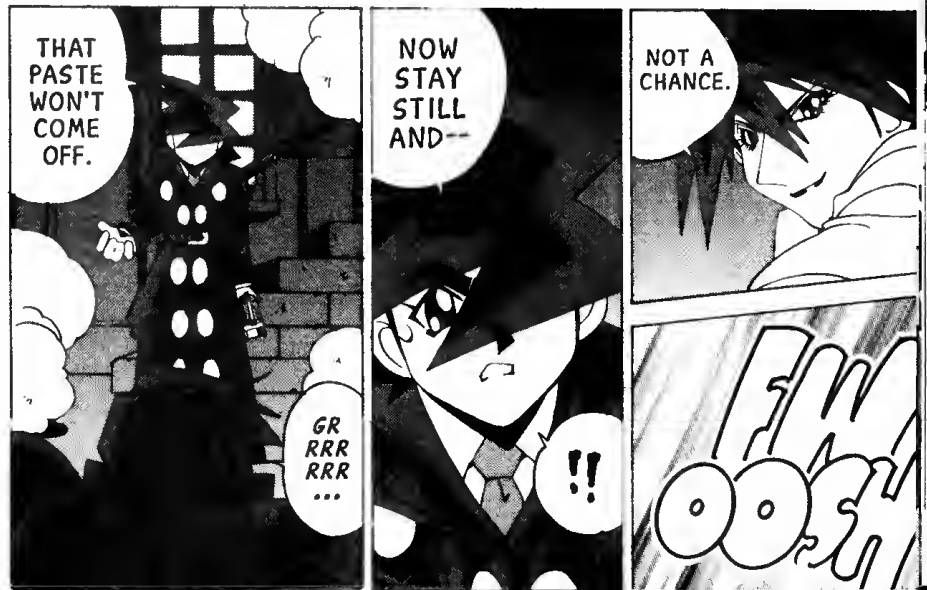
IF THIS WAS PLANNED, THEN WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE HAD ONLY ONE MOTIVE...
TMP
TMP
HURRY IT UP !
YES, MA'AM !

HUH ?

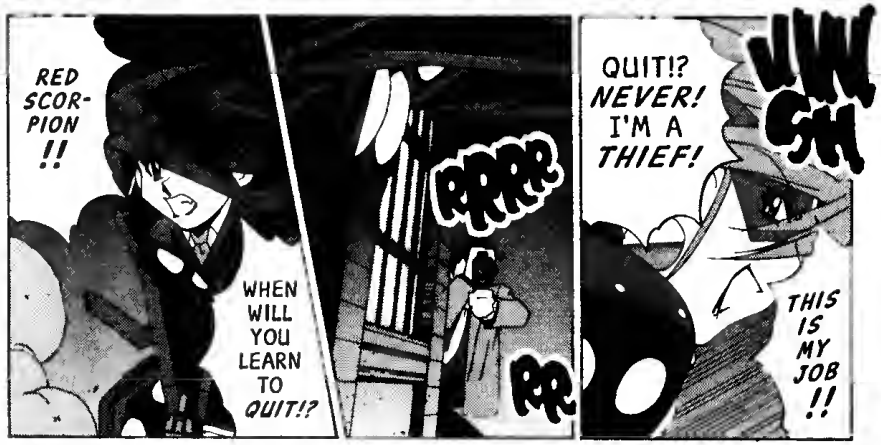
THP
THP
THP
WHY DID THEY HAVE SUIT-CASES?
!?


I KNEW IT! IT WAS THEM!!
WOO
OOO SH
BOSS, THAT WAS--
JUST SHUT UP AND RUN !!
STOP !!
TMP TMP
CH AK
THE RAINBOW QUARTZ SET IS GONE!

AHHH
BLA-
BL OO
SH
AIE EEE EE!
HM !?
HEY, DO YOU HAVE A MINI-CAMERA !?
Y-Y-YES.
HUH?
TMP


THAT PASTE WON'T COME OFF.
GR RRR RRR ...
NOW STAY STILL AND--
!!
NOT A CHANCE.
FW OOSH

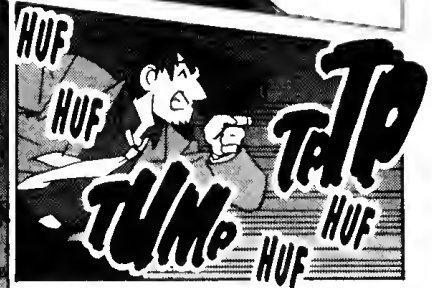
I GUESS IT'S OUR FATE TO KEEP MEETING LIKE THIS, LITTLE BOY!
THIS TIME, I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY. THIS IS HOW I MAKE MY LIVING!!


RED SCOR-PION !!
WHEN WILL YOU LEARN TO QUIT!?
RRRR
RR
QUIT!? NEVER! I'M A THIEF!
THIS IS MY JOB !!

AND I'M A DETECTIVE. MY JOB IS TO CATCH...
...THIEVES LIKE YOU!

WOOOOSH

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY !
WOOSH


HUF
HUF
TUMP
TAP
HUF
HUF

GOOD, GOOD!
YES!! THIS'LL MAKE A GREAT FILM!

TMP
TMP
TMP

LING LING !
ALAN!
DAD'S FILM IS AWESOME!! YOU SEE HOW HE TORE UP THE CITY !?!
YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG, ALAN !!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
H-H-HURRY! WE HAVE TO REACH THE MEGA-MATON!!
THESE SUIT-CASES ARE HEAVY!
THIS WAY, BOSS.
WHAT? SO HE ISN'T SHOOTING HIS FILM RIGHT NOW?
IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS HERE! COME WITH ME!!
TMP TMP HUF HAA HUF
UP HERE! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

WOO OOSH
TP TP TP TP
RRRRR
YES, YES.
VERY GOOD, NARU-TAKI!
RRRRR
GW OOO GH
KRK KRRR
ALAN, HURRY !!
GW OOO GH
UH-HUH!
PLAYTIME IS OVER! NOW, WE'LL ESCAPE IN OUR AWAITING MEGA-MATON!
GOOD-BYE, LITTLE BOY !!
TP TP TP TP TP

GWOOOO
CHOOOOOH
!!

WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED !?
GWW
B-BUT... WE HID THE MEGA-MATON BEHIND THAT BUILDING.

GWOO
GWOO
IT'S ON FIRE, YOU IDIOT!!

FREEZE, LADY THIEF RED SCORPION !
HUH?
CHAK

I'M SERGEANT ANNA OF THE STEAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT! PUT YOUR SUITCASES DOWN...
...AND PUT YOUR HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEADS!!
GWOOOH

HEH...
SOME-ONE NEW.
I CAN'T STAND WOMEN LIKE YOU.
WHY, THANK YOU.

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE NOW, RED SCORPION!
VERY WELL.

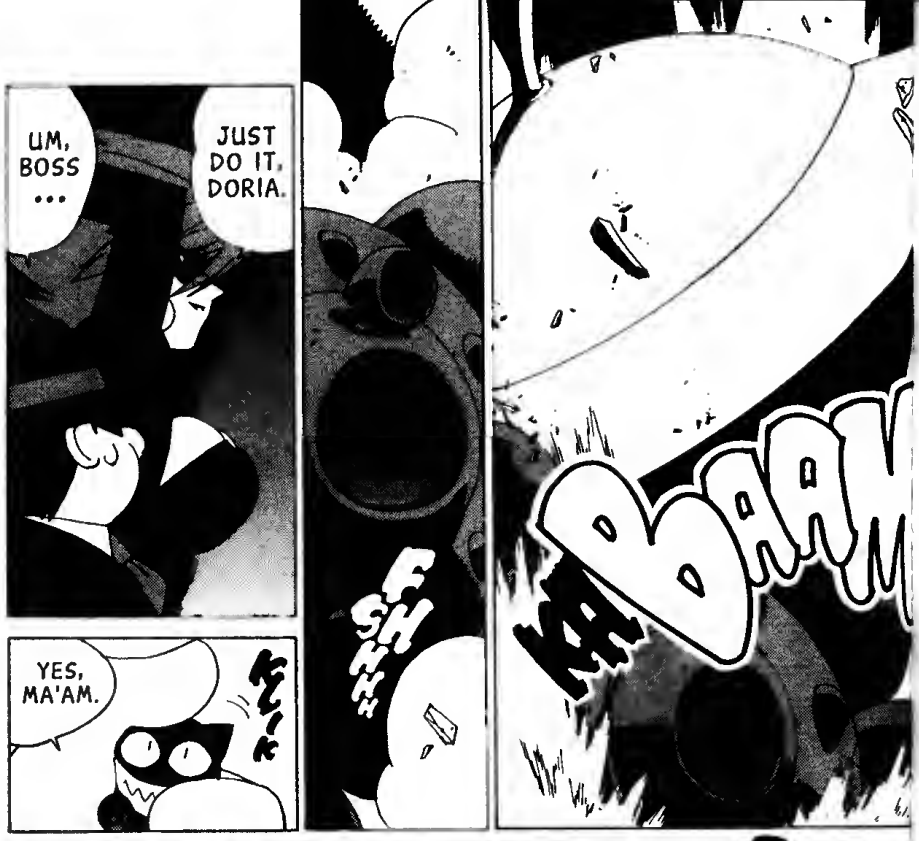
HEY! IT'S NARU-TAKI !
HM?
HI THERE, NARU-TAKI.
ALAN ?
!!

LING LING, ALAN, RUN!!
KRAK
KRAK
OHH HHH !!
IT'S A FLYING SAUCER !
!!
!
KRRRRR
HUH ?

THUD
KRASH
HURRY, ALAN !!
THUD
UH-HUH!
THUD
AH HHH !!
LING LING !!
THUMP
WOOF
THUD KRASH !!

LING LING !!
HM.

A-
AN
ALIEN
...
ALAN
!!
HURRY
!!
KR
RRR
KR
RRR
KR
RRR


UM, BOSS ...
JUST DO IT, DORIA.
FSHHH
KRBAAM
YES, MA'AM.
TYP

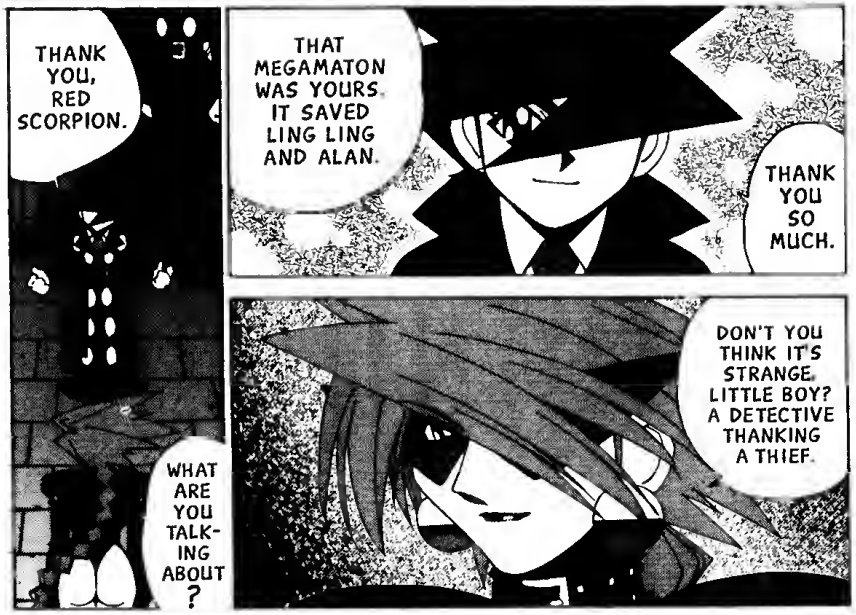
AN ALIEN... AN ALIEN RESCUED ME!!
TMP TMP TMP
ALAN !!

FAKKK

KA-
BOOM

HE... BLEW UP WITH THE FLYING SAUCER !
KRRRSH
THUD
BOSS, YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
.....

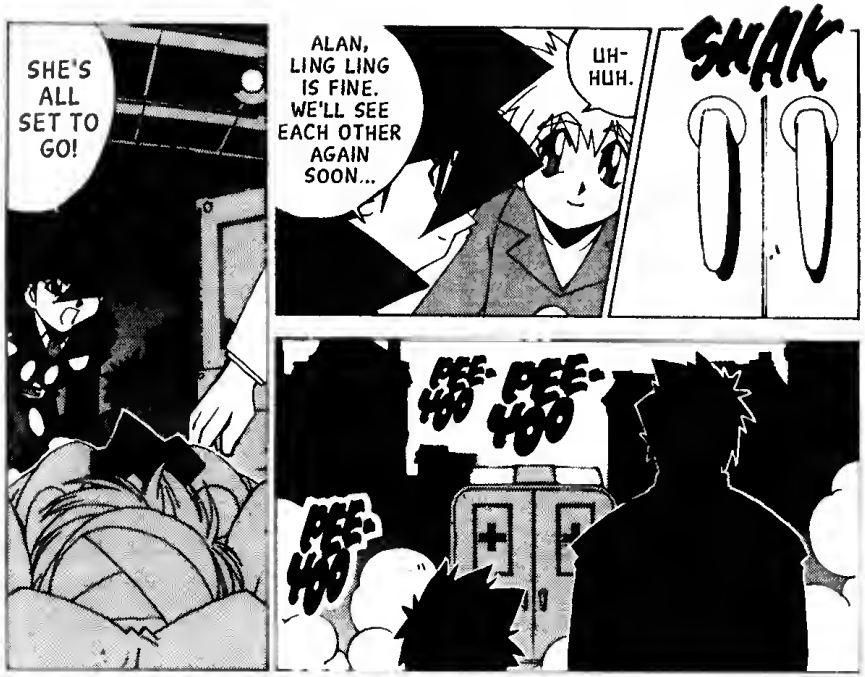
I HAD NO CHOICE. I MAY BE A THIEF. BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T STAND...
...IT'S SEEING A KID GET HURT.


THANK YOU, RED SCORPION.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT MEGAMATON WAS YOURS. IT SAVED LING LING AND ALAN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE, LITTLE BOY? A DETECTIVE THANKING A THIEF.

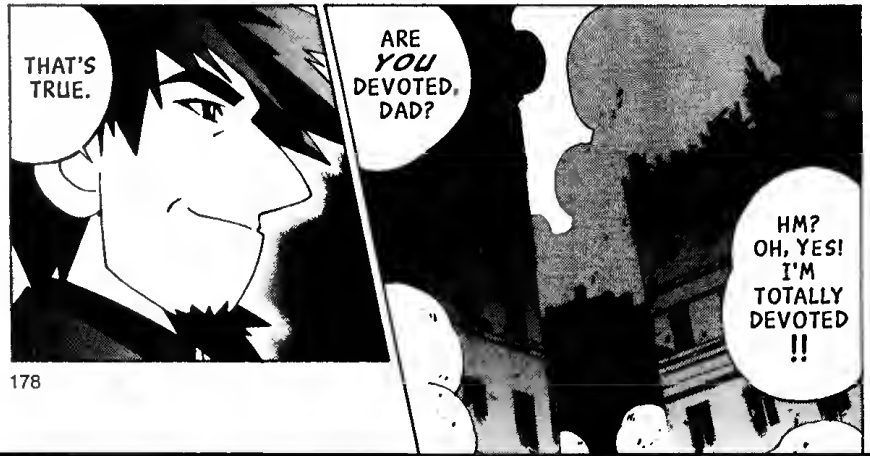
KCAHP

CRIME DOESN'T PAY, HUH?
INDEED.
.....

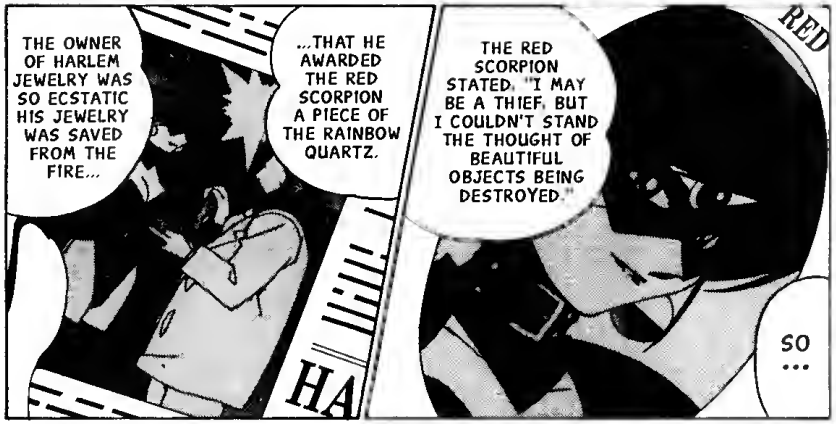
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LING LING?
THUMP
THUMP
YES, I'M FINE. I JUST HIT MY HEAD.
THE ALIEN RESCUED US FROM THE FALLING SAUCER!!
REALLY ...
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO THANK HIM.
UH-HUH! ALIENS LIVE FOREVER, SO I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

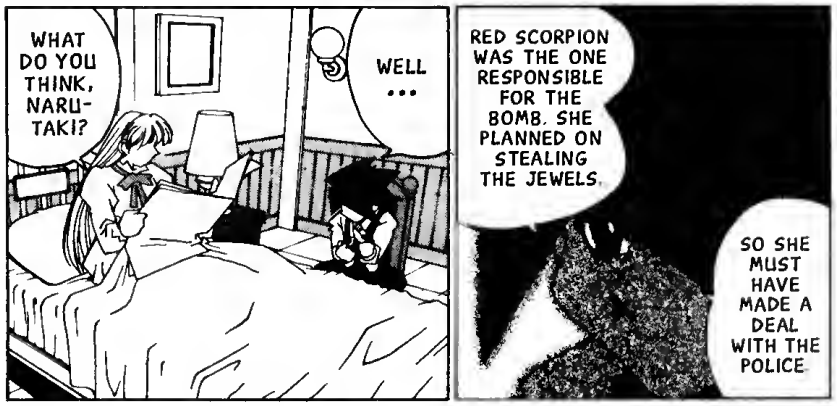

SHE'S ALL SET TO GO!
ALAN, LING LING IS FINE. WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON...
UH-HUH.
SHAK
PEE-HOO-
PEE-HOO-
PEE-HOO

THOSE FOLKS WORK REALLY HARD...
UH-HUH, BUT IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE *DEVOTED.*


THAT'S TRUE.
ARE *YOU* DEVOTED, DAD?
HM? OH, YES! I'M TOTALLY DEVOTED !!

THE PAPER SAYS IT'S *NOT CLEAR* WHO PLANTED THAT BOMB ON THE SET.


THE OWNER OF HARLEM JEWELRY WAS SO ECSTATIC HIS JEWELRY WAS SAVED FROM THE FIRE...
...THAT HE AWARDED THE RED SCORPION A PIECE OF THE RAINBOW QUARTZ.
HA
THE RED SCORPION STATED, "I MAY BE A THIEF, BUT I COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS BEING DESTROYED."
RED
SO ...

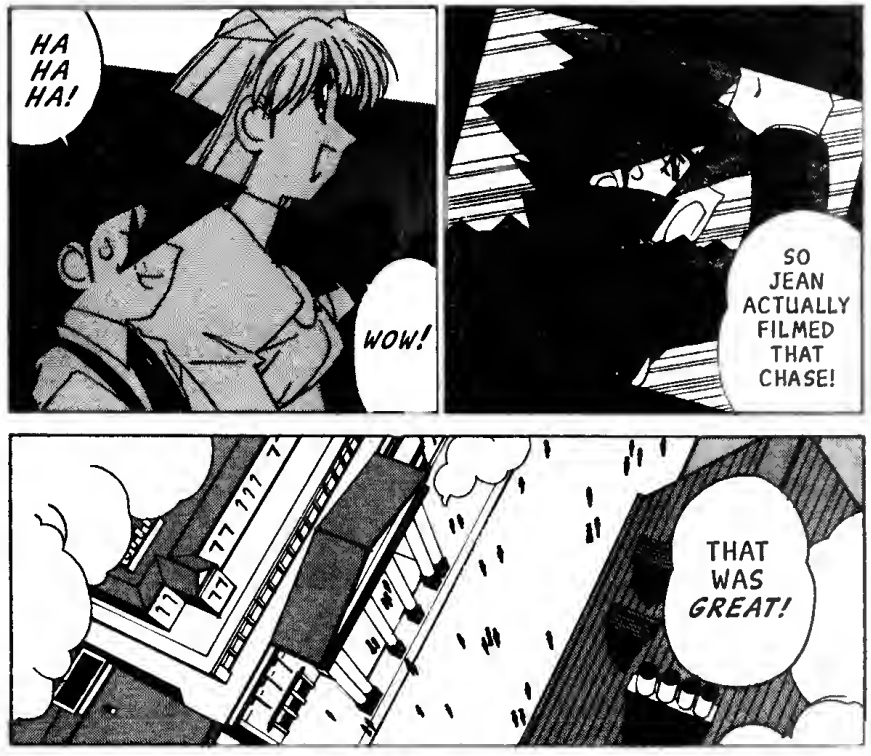

WHAT DO YOU THINK, NARUTAKI?
WELL ...
RED SCORPION WAS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMB. SHE PLANNED ON STEALING THE JEWELS.
SO SHE MUST HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE POLICE.

LUCKILY NO ONE WAS HURT IN THAT BIG FIRE. THE MOVIE COMPANY AND HARLEM JEWELRY ARE PAYING FOR ALL THE DAMAGES.
FWISK
FWISK
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE SAVED YOU AND ALAN.
UH-HUH.
HERE.
WHAT IS THIS?
UH... WELL... IT'S AN *APPLE.*
.....
HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PEEL IT FOR ME.
HA HA HA.
IT'S YUMMY!
MNCH MNCH
PHEW
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! ALAN TOLD ME ABOUT JEAN PAUL'S MOVIE.
HUH ?

FOUR MONTHS LATER...

CRITICAL CRISIS IN STEAM CITY!

THE BOY DETECTIVE VS. THE ALIENS!!



OH!
ALAN'S WAITING FOR THE ALIENS AGAIN.
YOUR FATHER'S FILM IS SO POPULAR.
DAD SAID IT WAS WONDERFUL EVERYONE'S ENJOYING IT...
BUT THE BEST THING WAS HOW THRILLED I WAS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN DAD THAT HAPPY.
SO I GUESS THIS IS ALSO THANKS TO THE ALIENS.
OF COURSE!

A re-lea-se!
...RIGHT ?
YEAH...
I MEAN...
...WHAT IS THAT... ?
FWUUUU
.....
& Kick The Kitty
!
FW UU
Random Scans